

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On the 21st inst., at East Point, the wife of Mr. JOHN RODGER, of a daughter. [253]

DEATHS.

At Wuchang, on the 8th January, 1897, of apoplexy, TH. SCHNELL, late General in the Imperial Chinese Army.

At Shanghai, on the 14th January, 1897, M. GEORGE JULIN, Ingénieur-Architecte.

At Shanghai, on the 15th January, 1897, D. N. SINCLAIR, aged 24 years.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 18th January, of typhoid fever, PETER TRAYNER, aged 28 years.

At Shanghai, on the 19th January, 1897, CHARLES HENRY MORRIS, aged 80 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 25th December arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Ravenna*, on the 22nd January (28 days); and the Canadian mail of the 5th January arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 26th January (21 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A St. George's Ball was given at Hongkong on the 22nd January.

The Carew case is still proceeding at Yokohama. The prosecution was closed on the 21st January and the defence opened on the 23rd.

A proclamation has been issued by the Kwangtung Lekin Office, similar to that recently issued in Kwangsi, with reference to the transit pass trade.

A petition has been presented to the Government of Hongkong by the shipping companies and firms protesting against the proposed permanent imposition of light dues at the rate of 2½ cents per ton.

According to a Havas telegram the French Cabinet had decided to ask for a vote to defray the expenses of a state funeral for the remains of the late M. Rousseau, Governor-General of Indo-China.

We (*Mercury*) hear that an official scandal has recently occurred in Yokohama and that a member of the Consular body, detected in cheating at cards, has been summarily dismissed by his Government.

The Emperor of Japan, who had been suffering from a feverish cold, was convalescent at the date of our last Japan files, and a special ceremony to celebrate His Majesty's recovery was to be held on the 14th January.

The *Courier d'Haiphong* says M. Marty left Haiphong on the 12th January for Pakhoi, where he goes with M. Kahn, Consul for France, and M. Devoux, a lawyer, to try to effect a settlement of his difficulties with the Chinese.

Mr. T. L. Bullock, Mr. Geo. Jamieson's relief as British Consul and Assistant Judge in Shanghai, arrived at Shanghai from Chefoo on the 13th January and assumed charge on the 14th. Mr. Geo. Jamieson proceeds home on leave on the 23rd.

A report was current in Singapore a week ago that plague had made its appearance there. It appears that several cases occurred which bore some resemblance to the symptoms of bubonic plague, but after careful examination and close bacteriological research the bacillus of plague was not discovered.

Some excitement has been caused at Tokyo by an incident in which the German Minister was concerned. It would appear that the Minister while driving slightly struck with his whip a Japanese student who with a companion had got in his way. The Japanese press is indignant and urges that the incident should be made a subject of diplomatic representation.

H. E. Wu Ting-fong, the newly appointed Chinese Minister to the United States, is at present staying in Hongkong. We understand the Hon. Ho Kai has joined his Excellency's suite and proceeds with him to the United States as secretary. The Hon. Ho Kai will obtain leave of absence as a member of the Hongkong Legislative Council.

We are informed from Soochow that the Settlement, together with the "Maloo," is to be handed over to the Japanese authorities for their management, in accordance with the terms of the Shimonoseki Treaty. The Chinese at first tried to keep the control of the Settlement in their hands, but after much diplomatic measures, in which the Japanese persisted in having everything to themselves concerning the port, the Chinese gave way.—*Mercury*.

A number of Censors and officers of the Six Boards in Peking are using strenuous efforts to get the Emperor to repeal the law allowing the purchase of official rank, such as those of district and department magistrates, sub-prefect, prefect, and Taotai, or 7th, 6th, 5th, and 4th ranks. The average receipts from this source by the Imperial Government yearly are about a million taels, and the Censors think that the stain on the dignity of the empire outbalances the advantages accruing from the receipt of the money.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A Japanese Commission of Investigation estimates the cost of laying a telegraphic cable from Japan, *via* Hawaii, to San Francisco at \$13,680,000, including two steamers. The gross receipts are estimated at \$1,674,000, and the expenses at \$999,000, per annum.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—As the Shanghai-Woosung Railway in the seventies was the first railroad ever laid in China, so the first Government road in this province will be the resuscitation of the old road, work on which, it is reported, will be commenced in the spring. It is also expected that the survey of the line to Soochow will be made before the close of the present Chinese year.

The *Bangkok Times* says:—His Majesty the King, we learn on good authority, will shortly issue an edict, making it a criminal offence to obtain evidence from accused and other persons by flogging and other means. Of course these methods have been abolished in Bangkok for some time, but His Majesty's personal observations while visiting the Special Commissioner's Court at Ayuthia led him to believe it likely that such abuses may still obtain in the provinces and he was determined to prohibit them altogether. It will be remembered that one of the Ayuthia judges sent to prison by the Commissioners had flogged a prisoner so severely that the latter died.

Their Excellencies Wang and Chang, Viceroy of Chihli and Hukuang, respectively, and Sheng, Director-General of the Great Western Railway, have appointed Chang Chen-k'ai, an expectant Taotai of Chihli and a fellow-townsmen of the last named official, to be the head of the Railway Company at Hankow. Another Taotai, Sun Chung-hsiang, and an expectant district magistrate named Hsiang Ming-ohien, have further been appointed by their Excellencies to superintend the surveys of the railway commencing from Hankow northwards to a point, probably, in Honan province where they will meet another party of officials and surveyors who have made Peking their starting point southwards. There will be a number of foreign engineers connected with both expeditions.—*N. C. Daily News*.

In introducing a review of the work of the Shanghai Municipal Council during the past year the *N. C. Daily News* says:—The growth of Shanghai is not perhaps quite as rapid as that of Chicago in the days when a man who went to sleep at night on the open prairie would wake up in the morning to find a hotel built over him; but it is rapid enough to make a man who goes home on a year's leave rub his eyes when he comes back and wonder if it really is the same old mud-flat that he left a year before. He finds building going on everywhere; old houses and godowns coming down in the English settlement and being replaced by four and five-storied buildings for which fabulous rents are secured before the foundations are finished; gardens on the Bubbling Well Road devoted to country residences for Taotais and retired Governors; the foreshore of the lower reach of the river where ponies were turned out to graze covered with great cotton mills; and the ice-ponds of Hongkew, where he used to get a fitful hour or two's skating if he got up early enough in the morning, transformed into streets of comfortable foreign houses, which are let before the day for them are settled.

THE ANTI-FOREIGN SPIRIT IN HUNAN.

The anti-foreign spirit which a few years since was so signally manifested by a long series of riots and outrages—including some atrocious murders of foreigners—in the valley of the Yangtze still lives and flourishes in Hunan. That province, hitherto carefully secluded from foreign presence or defilement, has always been the special home of prejudice and race antipathy. The Hunanese fondly believe themselves superior to all the other Chinese races, and more particularly look down with contempt and pity upon the sheep-like natives of Kiangsu. The hated *fan-kwei* is, however, the special object of their aversion, and they appear resolved to keep him at a distance by all and any means in their power. There are no Treaty ports in this province, no points of contact with the peoples of the West, and the natives seem determined that there shall be none. Even the telegraph, as being an invention of foreign origin, they would not admit within their bounds, and that through the solemn official assurance that the institution would benefit the country it was at length allowed to enter it was only after they had been persuaded that the innovation would bring wealth into the province and the construction of the lines would afford work for the people. These facts having been impressed upon the officials, they brought pressure to bear on the gentry, who then ceased to incite the rabble against the intending wires. The statement that the notorious CHOU HAN, the expectant taotai who, possessing a marvellously fluent pen had been the chief author of numerous anti-foreign books, pamphlets, &c., which early in the nineties flooded the Yangtze Valley, had been converted from the error of his ways and assumed his right mind, turns out to be a pious fraud. CHOU is still flourishing in Hunan, safe from Western justice, and still the hero of a credulous and foolish populace. Changsha, the capital of Hunan, is, as ever, the stronghold of Chinese conservatism, and is as rigidly closed as before to the unwelcome foreigner.

A correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary, who has recently visited this seat of Celestial culture, gives a very unsatisfactory account of his reception there. On the arrival of the party, the boat was at once detained, and the magistrates who at length went off to them assured them the people "would not have them there; they must go away." The correspondent goes on to add:—"They would protect us of course, and had brought with them a lot of soldiers and runners for the purpose, but all the same on attempting to reach the shore we were driven back by a yelling crowd and volleys of stones, which things the officials professed themselves utterly powerless to prevent. How much of this was a spontaneous tribute of disesteem on the part of the Changsha people and how much of it was got up for the occasion by the officials themselves we could not say, but seeing that the shore in question was a barren sandbank, and the hostile crowd numbered about fifty persons, chiefly boys, while on our side there was twice that number of able-bodied soldiers, I must say it looked remarkably odd. Personally I suffered no harm, but one of my men who contrived to effect a landing had his books taken from him and torn to pieces, his clothes torn, and himself thrown into the river right under our eyes without the slightest effort being made to help him

The affair lasted several minutes, during which time not one of all the many civil and military mandarins, writers, soldiers, runners, &c., present uttered a word to stop it, but laughed, some of them, till the tears ran down their cheeks." From the account given by this gentleman, it is very plain that the capital of Hunan is still a very undesirable place for a foreigner to visit, and that there is no amelioration in the frantic feeling of scorn and dislike with which the foreigners are regarded by the officials and literati. Any attempt by Europeans to travel through the country would probably be met with a new outbreak of fanatical hatred from the natives, and the prospect of any improvement in these feelings seems remote.

The fact is much to be regretted, and more especially so as the British Government had it so recently in their power to demand the opening of this province to trade and residence as punishment and reparation for the mischief wrought by the anti-foreign literature issued from the presses of Changsha and other Hunan towns. Those incendiary pamphlets and books undoubtedly were the main agents in stirring up the anti-foreign feeling which found vent in the massacres of Wusueh and subsequently at Kucheng. Had the British Government firmly insisted upon the punishment of CHOU HAN, the degradation of the Viceroy, and the opening of the river Siang and of Changsha to foreign trade the opposition of the people of Hunan—more seeming than real—would soon have died out and much ignorant prejudice been quickly dissipated. But for some inscrutable reason the British Government neglected the opportunity, probably over-rating the opposition that would be offered, and it has been lost for the present. The worst of it all is that the Chinese officials have been encouraged to persevere in their obstructive tactics, and it will be more difficult than ever to invade this stronghold of Chinese officialism. As our readers are no doubt aware, Hunan not only furnishes the largest proportion of officials, but also provides some of the best troops in China. The people are really superior in character and spirit to those of most provinces, and if not misled by the upper classes would probably prove the most progressive race in the Central Kingdom. It is therefore the greater pity that they should be allowed to close their gates against foreigners. Some of the ports on the Siang would, moreover, soon become centres of a thriving trade. It is to be hoped that if ever another opportunity offers, Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD—who has shown himself to be a prompt and vigorous diplomatist—will not fail to take advantage of it to open up this important province to foreign trade and navigation.

THE LIGHT DUES.

The Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, in its letter to the Government in support of the memorial of the shipping companies and firms with reference to the light dues question, says "the mere amount of the light dues is not regarded so much as is the principle involved in the practical retention of the special 'Gap Rock tax.' We must confess we perused that sentence with some astonishment, as it seems to reduce the whole matter to the level of a merely sentimental grievance. The petition itself, however, shows that the tax is a substantial burden and is calculated to seriously prejudice the trade of the port. Under the conditions at present prevailing in the shipping trade, the petition states,

"every item of expenditure has to be closely watched, and a comparatively small difference in the expenditure at a port may determine the course of a vessel's voyage. Steamers coming out to Japan and Shanghai are no longer as formerly compelled to call at Hongkong for coals or stores. The great increase in speed, the diminution in the consumption of coal, and greater bunker capacity enable vessels to make the voyage direct to Yokohama or Shanghai without coming into Hongkong. The inducement to call is often very slight. Frequently it is a question, even with a big steamer, of taking in or discharging as little as 100 to 200 tons of cargo. The light dues to be paid may make all the difference between a profit and a loss on small quantities of cargo, and may decide the steamer to avoid the port. If she does not call then her expenditure here is entirely lost to the residents, and a permanent injury done to the trade of the colony." This is a plain business argument that we think must carry conviction to the minds of the Governor and those of the unofficial members who recommended the tax. For Hongkong to levy a tax on shipping in order to swell the general revenue of the colony is almost as suicidal a course as it would be for a tradesman to make a charge for admission to his shop. We have few exports of our own and our import requirements are small, but with a strict preservation of the freedom of the port, the colony is well adapted to serve as an emporium of trade for the surrounding regions. It is our policy to attract shipping by all possible means, for it is on the shipping trade that the prosperity of the colony depends; but the natural tendency of placing a tax on shipping is to neutralise the natural advantages we enjoy and to induce vessels to pass by the port when they are not absolutely compelled to call. As pointed out in the petition, with heavy light dues to pay vessels cannot afford to put in to discharge or load small quantities of cargo. It is to the interest of the colony that all vessels should call here, whether their cargo be large or small.

THE GOVERNOR'S REPORT AND THE TRADE OF THE COLONY.

The *British Trade Journal* in its December issue has the following paragraph:—"Absolutely nothing as to the general condition of trade will be found in the latest Colonial Office report from Hongkong. It deals with the year 1895, the year after the war; and it is, perhaps, not unreasonable to expect that the commercial effect of that struggle upon the trade of Hongkong might have been mentioned. Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, the Governor, confines his remarks almost wholly to the bubonic plague and the coolies' strike. The finances of the colony appear to be in a satisfactory condition; the shipping of the port is on the increase; and we gather that there were larger importations of flour, rice, sugar, and timber. Imports of kerosine, however, declined from 100,367 to 67,051, a remarkable change for which no explanation is given. The report furnishes another piece of evidence, if any were needed, of the imperative necessity of appointing intelligent commercial representatives in our colonies." Our contemporary has for some time past been carrying on a useful campaign against the system of administration prevailing in the Crown Colonies, but in the paragraph quoted above the Governor of Hongkong is hardly treated

with justice. The mercantile community objects to any compulsory collection of trade statistics, and even the publication of the returns given in the Harbour Master's report, compiled from information voluntarily supplied, has been adversely criticised by the Chamber of Commerce. Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON in the report referred to by our contemporary points out that "Hongkong being a free port no perfectly accurate statistics of imports are obtainable." Statistics must necessarily be the foundation of commercial reports and in their absence the preparation of any report that would fulfil the requirements of the *British Trade Journal* would be impossible, even for an "intelligent commercial representative." The amount of shipping entering the port, the returns of cargo shipped and discharged as compiled by the Harbour Master, the stamp revenue, the assessment, and other material of a like nature serve to show in a general way whether the colony has been during any particular year in a prosperous condition or otherwise, but the material for making an examination of its trade in detail is totally lacking. Under these circumstances we do not think Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON is to be blamed for not entering upon the task of writing a trade report. He might, it is true, write in a general way on the progress of the colony, but however interesting such a report might be to local readers it could prove of little utility to merchants or manufacturers at home. Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX, it will be remembered, on one occasion wrote a very able and eloquent report on those lines, but unfortunately it was published just on the culmination of a boom, and in the period of subsequent depression it was subjected to much adverse criticism, though it must be acknowledged now, we think, that our late Governor's estimate of the position of the colony has been justified by subsequent history. Such a report, however, stands in quite a different category from commercial reports founded on accurate and detailed information and it would be neither desirable nor possible to produce one annually, for it is only occasionally, certainly not oftener than once in the administration of each successive Governor, that the inspiration can present itself.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF.

-There can no longer, unfortunately, be any doubt as to the reality of the distress in India arising from failure of the food crops. Hongkong will naturally desire to contribute to the relief of that distress, and the time will soon arrive when the formation of a famine fund may appropriately be taken into consideration. One of our evening contemporaries has suggested that the work should be undertaken by the press. While for our own part we would be glad to do all that lay in our power in that direction if we thought it was the public wish that the fund should be formed under press auspices, we think the suggested machinery is not likely to prove so effective as would a representative committee either appointed directly by the Governor or elected by a public meeting. In the case of the Irish famine in 1880 a public meeting was held at the City Hall, under the presidency of the Governor, at which a committee was appointed with Mr. STARKEY as the Secretary and Mr. T. JACKSON as the Treasurer. The amount collected on that occasion was the very handsome one of £7,359 3s. 4d. The proposed institution of a press fund on the present occasion has been suggested by the course taken by the *Straits Times*; but while

our Singapore contemporary may earn a little cheap honour and glory for itself in the matter we question whether the total amount contributed by the southern colony will be so large as if the matter had been left to a properly organised committee. The functions of the press, we take it, are to record news and comment on passing events, the exercise of executive functions in public affairs being outside its sphere. Where a newspaper originates some idea of its own requiring a public subscription, as, for instance, the recent GRACE testimonial originated by the *Daily Telegraph*, a newspaper subscription list is a proper means of raising the necessary funds to give effect to it; but where the object in view is a national one, appealing to every one alike, a Mansion House fund in England, and in the colonies funds established under recognised official auspices, seem to offer the best guarantee for the collection of the largest amounts and for their proper administration. In places where there is no readily available official machinery for the purpose, as for instance in the Treaty Ports, a newspaper subscription list might be a convenient means of raising funds in such an emergency as the present, but in Hongkong, where we have a Governor to take the initiative, it would be better to leave it to him. Also the question arises whether it is necessary to proceed in haste in the matter or whether it would not be better to wait until some formal communication from India is received. The latter seems to have been the course followed in England, where Lord GEORGE HAMILTON said that an appeal before the extent of the scarcity was known would mar the effect of charity, and intimated that an Indian Famine Fund would be opened directly notice was received from the Viceroy that the Government was ready to distribute the same. The *Times* also remarked that no serious harm would be done by the delay of a week or two in appealing to the public, as the famine cannot be dealt with by a spurt and is the affair of six to twelve months' continuous exertion. Although the distress is already keenly felt the hardest pinch will be experienced later on. In Hongkong we think it would on the whole be better to await a formal appeal from India than to approach the public with nothing more definite than the newspaper reports to go upon. We must assume that the Indian Government is the best judge of when the appeal should be made.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

In his report on Queen's College for 1896 Dr. WRIGHT, the head master, refers to a falling off in revenue from fees quite out of proportion to the diminution in attendance consequent on the plague, and which, he says, "is largely attributable to the reduction of the second and third classes by one half, through causes not under my control." What are these causes, and why are they not specified? Are they connected with the abolition of the section known as the Chinese School, referred to in the next paragraph of the report, in which Dr. WRIGHT tells us that "by the removal of these ten hours a week devoted to the study of Chinese by the Lower and Preparatory Schools an increase of three hours a week for the acquisition of English was obtained for the Lower School and second and third classes?" That again is rather a puzzling statement, for if ten hours have been taken off the study of Chinese why should there not be ten hours, instead of only three, to add on to the study of

English? As the Governor, however, in his speech at the prize distribution, stated that these paragraphs of Dr. WRIGHT's report referred to controversial subjects it may be that Dr. WRIGHT did not feel himself at liberty to enter into them so fully as he might have wished. However that may be, the result of the annual examination of the school would appear to have been above the average, a fact that must be recorded with satisfaction.

Leaving Dr. WRIGHT's report we turn to the Governor's speech, which is interesting if not instructive. His Excellency says he is not an educationist, but a plain practical man on the matter of education. We have yet to learn that there is any antithesis between an educationist and a plain practical man on the matter of education, any more than there is between a physician and a plain practical man on the matter of medicine, or between an architect and a plain practical man on the matter of architecture. His Excellency's confession that he is not an educationist hardly redounds to his credit, for education in these days is a subject which must largely engage the attention of all rulers and for the Governor of Hongkong to acknowledge that he knows nothing about it, however creditable the acknowledgment may be to his candour, is not calculated to increase the public respect for his qualifications. So far from being a plain practical man in the matter of education His Excellency impresses us rather as being, on that subject, a faddist. His chief fad seems to be that of sacrificing everything, in the case of Chinese boys, to the teaching of English. Every British subject must naturally desire to see the more extended use of the English language, and the object is one for the attainment of which great sacrifices might be made; but to deprive the natives of the opportunity of becoming masters of their own language is calculated rather to retard than to promote that object and to impede the spread of Western arts and sciences in China. We would like to see Hongkong not only the financial focus but also the intellectual focus of the Far East. His Excellency, on the other hand, objects to Hongkong educated boys going into China to take up positions in which they may exercise a beneficial and enlightening influence on their fellow countrymen; he would prefer that they should all remain in the colony. It may be argued, as it has been, that it is not the duty of Hongkong to pay for the education of officials for the Chinese Government, and on that point we would certainly be in favour of gradually raising the fees at Queen's College as the value of the education imparted there becomes more appreciated by the Chinese; but in the meantime it can hardly be disputed that the colony must greatly profit from the spread of European civilisation in China, in which the Queen's College has hitherto been no unimportant factor. The boys sent into China from that institution, even though they may not be engaged in commercial pursuits, must in fact act more or less directly as commercial missionaries and so promote the interests of this colony. The strength of the party in China which, without being revolutionary in a seditious sense, is earnestly desirous of seeing the reform and the opening up of their country brought about, is generally under-rated. Though at present the party is relatively small, both in strength and numbers, it is steadily growing, and it seems a narrow minded policy that would in our this colony's withholding from it any assistance our educational institutions may be

able to afford. But Chinamen ignorant or imperfectly educated in their own language will be able to exercise much less influence on their fellow countrymen, either in this colony or the neighbouring empire, than they would otherwise be. On that ground we believe the abolition of the Chinese School in Queen's College and the reversal of the policy of the late Dr. STEWART to be a mistake. H.E. WU TING-FANG when a resident of Hongkong favoured the policy which has now been adopted under the Governor's directions in Queen's College, but we think Mr. WU TING-FANG himself, as well as the Hon. HO KAI, who holds similar views, may be taken as a striking example of the advantage of possessing an education in both languages. Neither of those eminent men would have been able to exercise a tithe of the influence they do had they received an exclusively English education.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Reinforcements for the Spanish troops in the Philippines are now pouring into Manila at a rapid rate, no fewer than ten thousand having passed through Singapore within a period of a few days. The total Spanish force in the islands must now amount to nearly twenty-five thousand, and with an army of that strength in the field the subjugation of the rebellion in the province of Cavite ought not to take long. That peace may soon be restored must be the wish of every intelligent observer, coupled with the further wish that the causes that led to the rebellion may be removed. Whatever sympathy may have been felt for the rebels has arisen only from the feeling that they have been sadly misgoverned, but it cannot have amounted to a wish for their success, for any government that the rebels might establish would inevitably, having regard to the condition of the country, be worse than the one it would displace. Mr. O'SHEA, the special correspondent of a New York paper and of the *China Gazette*, has recently published a number of interesting letters on the progress of the rebellion and the condition of the country, and, though we think we are correct in saying that his leanings are towards the clerical or ruling party, he has nevertheless been constrained to admit the existence of very grave abuses. People in China, he says, complain of the restrictions and annoyances of doing business where the Chinese authorities have to be dealt with; "but they know nothing of Manila, or they would not complain." The wonder is, not that the "trade of this magnificent country is disgracefully small after nearly four hundred years of Spanish administration, but that any exists at all." Further, he tells us that the country for downright lying on every side beats even China; and that the Church dignitaries are a power in the land equal if not superior to the Governor-General and the entire official hierarchy. He also, when speaking of the "patient, fostering, and not unduly harsh rule" of Spain, adds that "it is not to our minds the wisest or best rule, and is prolific of the most exasperating annoyances and fruitful of scandalous abuses." These exasperating annoyances and scandalous abuses have produced lamentable consequences and Spain would do well to lay the lesson to heart. One of the most exasperating annoyances is the restriction placed on the liberty of the press, so that the natives are debarred from ventilating their grievances in a constitutional way, the result being that discontent that

might otherwise lead to reform or expend itself in harmless talk is liable at any time to break out into open rebellion. Something of the same mutinous spirit would no doubt be engendered in India were an attempt made to suppress the Congress or the native press, both of which, under existing circumstances, serve a useful purpose as effective safety valves.

SUPREME COURT.

19th January.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE TRAFFIC IN GIRLS.

Chan Wun was indicted upon two counts under the Woman's and Girls Protection Ordinance for purchasing and taking in pledge a girl named Yeung Chun Yan for the purpose of prostitution on the 12th May, 1895.

The Attorney-General, Hon. W. M. Goodman, instructed by the Crown Solicitor, Mr. Denny, appeared to conduct the case for the prosecution, and Mr. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Mr. Master, appeared for the defence.

The jurors were—Messrs. A. Rodger, E. F. Mackay, Smith Alliston, S. S. Benjamin, J. T. Aquino, B. K. Mehta, and L. M. H. Ozorio.

The complainant in the case stated that she was fourteen years old according to Chinese computation and that the defendant purchased her for \$280 in May, 1895, and afterwards compelled her to act as a prostitute.

For the defence it was contended that the girl had been purchased for the purpose of being adopted as a daughter, and a presentation note stating that this was the purpose for which she had been sold was relied upon.

The Chief Justice in charging the jury pointed out that the mere fact that the deed of sale purported to shew that the girl was to become an adopted daughter was not enough to prove that the sale was a lawful one, as if this were to be accepted the Ordinance would become a dead letter.

The jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty on the first count of purchasing for the purpose of prostitution and she was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour.

The Attorney-General entered a *nolle prosequi* with reference to a second information against the same prisoner in which she was charged with procuring the same girl while under the age of sixteen to have carnal connexion.

When the prisoner was removed from the Court House considerable excitement took place amongst a crowd of sympathisers who had collected in the Queen's Road.

THE TRANSIT PASS QUESTION IN KWANGTUNG.

The following translation of a proclamation of the Kwangtung Likin Office with regard to inward Transit passes has been forwarded to us from the Colonial Secretary's Office:—

Chang, Financial Commissioner for the Province of Kwangtung; K'uei, decorated with a button of the second class, Judicial Commissioner for the Province of Kwangtung; Ying, decorated with a button of the second class, Salt Comptroller of the two Kwangs; Yen, holding brevet rank of the second class, Grain Intendant for the province of Kwangtung; Chang, holding brevet rank of the third class, an expectant Intendant of Circuit on the Kwangtung establishment, who constitute the Central Likin office for the whole province of Kwangtung, do hereby issue the following proclamation for the public information.

His Excellency Tan, Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent, and Governor-General of the two Kwangs, has transmitted to this office copy of a communication addressed to His Excellency by Mr. E. H. Fraser, Acting British Consul for the port of Canton.

The Acting Consul therein requests that, as British merchants are at present conveying foreign produce under transit pass into the

interior of Kwangtung, this office be instructed to make itself acquainted with the terms of a previous despatch from the Tsungli Yamen with regard to inward passes in the two Kwang provinces, and to issue a proclamation embodying the sense thereof for the information of the public. Mr. Fraser further asked that every District Magistrate be directed to act in conformity therewith.

His Excellency, in forwarding this communication, observes that the despatch from the Tsungli Yamen referred to quoted the 7th Tariff Rule annexed to the Treaty of Tientsin, which runs as follows:—

"Duty free goods, with the exception of the three classes gold and silver bullion, foreign coins and baggage, which need not be discussed, will, if taken into the interior, be liable to an *ad valorem* duty of 24 per cent.; moreover when merchandise is taken into the interior the merchant concerned must give notice to the Customs of the nature and quantity of the goods, the ship from which they have been landed and their inland destination. The Collector of Customs will then, on due inspection made and on receipt of the inland duty payable, issue an inland duty certificate. The merchant must produce this certificate at every barrier *en route* that it may be viséd and the goods allowed to pass. No matter at what point no further duty will be leviable upon goods so certificated."

It then went on to point out that the inland half duty was in fact a commutation of the likin liable in transit, that the exhibition of the transit certificate to be viséd at the destination mentioned therein of course freed the produce it covered from all other charges; but that, after such produce had been separated from the pass, the likin regulation applied to the former equally with uncertificated goods.

The Yamen therefore called attention to the necessity of preventing further difficulties by notifying the mercantile class and the public generally by proclamation, and requested His Excellency the Governor-General to instruct his subordinates to issue a fresh proclamation, plainly setting forth the Treaty provisions, for the information and guidance of both Chinese and foreign merchants.

Acting on this despatch His Excellency wrote to His Excellency the Governor and gave this office instructions in the sense indicated.

Being now in receipt of such instructions it is the duty of this office to issue this proclamation. It is at the same time transmitting to the various local authorities and every likin station the requisite directions to carry out the orders received.

Be it therefore known to you merchants and the general public, Chinese and foreign, that according to the clear provisions of the Treaty foreign produce, imported under half duty certificate to no matter what points in the interior, shall, on production and examination of its covering pass in transit, be exempt from all additional charges. When the goods shall have arrived at the point mentioned in the certificate and ceased to be under the protection of the pass, the charge levied thereon shall not differ in the slightest degree from those levied on goods of a similar nature which have paid likin *en route*.

This proclamation is published with a view to further trade by a clear enunciation of Treaty stipulations.

You merchants and people concerned ought, therefore, each and all of you to act in conformity therewith.

Do not wantonly create complications. Issued in the 12th moon of the XXII. year of Kangsu.

Received January the 16th, 1897.

Translated by

(Signed) J. W. JAMIESON.

The jinricksha strike at Singapore has collapsed. The whole trouble is said to have originated from the fact of the number of vehicles licensed being unlimited, the consequence of that being that excessive competition reduced profits to such a narrow limit that the owners were unable to comply with the requirements of the law as to repairs on account of the expense. In that respect matters seem to be managed better in Hongkong, the number of licences issued here being limited to five hundred.

ST. GEORGE'S BALL

The 1897 St. George's Ball will always be remembered as one of the most brilliant functions ever held in the colony; no gathering has yet surpassed it for magnificent grandeur and warmth of hospitality. Englishmen are notorious all the world over for their love of everything that is best, and it may be safely said that there was nothing wanting in this year's celebration to complete the enjoyment of the eleven hundred people who assembled in the City Hall on Friday night. It has been well known for the past month that this year's English ball would be a record one and the many who formed high expectations could not have been in the least disappointed in Friday night's memorable gathering. To Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, the honorary Secretary, is due in a large measure the complete success of the ball, and the English were very fortunate in enlisting his valuable aid. Not only did he carry out the arduous clerical work, but he personally saw that all the arrangements were efficiently carried out and he rendered the various Committees all the assistance in his power. Thoughtful care was bestowed upon every detail, the result being an entire absence of annoying trivialities which, although insignificant in themselves, sometimes go so far towards wrecking success. The decorations were on an unprecedented scale, the credit in this important department of Committee work being largely due to Lieutenant Butterworth, R.N., and Captain Tillet. Although on so lavish a scale there was nothing in the decorations which suggested useless extravagance or clumsiness: everything was artistically arranged and no expense was spared in the work. The avenue formed of bamboos and beautiful palms which led from the entrance door up the staircase was beautifully picturesque and certainly nothing finer in that way has ever been attempted before. Mr. C. Ford and Mr. J. Tutecher brought their professional skill to bear on the arrangement of the plants and flowers, and it is needless to say that the whole effect was intensely pleasing. At the head of stairs facing the entrance was a painting representing St. George and the Dragon. It was surmounted by a crown and on each side were the English banner and the St. George's flag and also devices formed of swords and bayonets. Pennants bearing the St. George's cross were in conspicuous positions in all parts of the building and even the Chinese lanterns which hung under a temporary verandah at the entrance door had the red cross painted upon them. The rooms were of course decorated in the English style. The English banner and the St. George's cross occupied the most prominent positions on the walls and they were flanked on either side by the flags of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. There was not a single foreign ensign in the rooms. At the top part of St. George's Hall there was a huge mirror, for which Commander Rumsey and Mr. G. A. Caldwell were responsible, and near it were the arms of England and the cross of St. George. The band stand was quite rustic in appearance, the whole of the woodwork being hidden by an abundance of leaves—a unique feature due to the work of Mr. G. A. Caldwell. In the centre of the ceiling was the St. George's cross formed of small electric glow lamps and from it branched off red and white streamers which were strung across to represent the maypole. In St. Andrew's Hall the decorations were of a similar kind and the scene when both rooms were crowded with dancers was most striking. The management of the electric light was in the hands of Mr. C. T. Robinson. It should also be mentioned that Mr. Hutchings and Mr. Grimshaw and Seaman Wakefield rendered most valuable assistance in arranging the thousand and one flags in various parts of the building. Special efforts were made on this occasion to facilitate the movements of the guests and to prevent any undue crowding, and these efforts were attended with every success. The buffet room was used as the main sitting room and adjoining it was the drawing room, the floor of which was laid with a red and white carpet representing the St. George's cross. The corridor at the top of the stairs was kept free, and seats were provided on all the verandahs, which were overhung

with numerous flags and banners. As a consequence of these admirable arrangements there was much more room than usual afforded to the vast number of guests, and at no time was there any undue crowding. The theatre, which was used for supper, was tastefully decorated, each pillar bearing a girdle of green leaves from which peeped out the St. George's pennant. The stage looked exceedingly handsome with its small forest of bamboos and palms and the effect was even more heightened when the red-coated Hongkong Regiment appeared to play the music during supper. On one of the tables stood a peacock, which has a history of its own. The bird was specially ordered for the occasion from Cape St. James, and it was particularly requested that the bird sent should possess a magnificent tail. The order was carried out and the peacock, proud of its handsome rear appendage, was placed on board a steamer bound for Hongkong. But the complete peacock never got here, and thereby hangs a tale. The body came safely enough, but there was no sign of a tail, and it turned out that some Chinamen on board had wickedly plucked the feathers from the bird regardless of the feelings of the Englishmen in Hongkong. It was too late to order another bird, so what remained of this peacock was kept and what was missing was replaced by a tail brought from Canton.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., arrived punctually to time and was met at the entrance by the stewards, while the band of the West Yorkshire Regiment played "God Save the Queen." On reaching the ball room dancing was at once proceeded with, the principal set in the first lancers being as follows:—H.E. The Governor and Lady Buller, H. E. Admiral Buller and Mrs. Black, H. E. Major-General Black and Mrs. Stewart Lockhart, the Chief Justice and Mrs. Goodman. The dance programme was very neatly printed in gold and chocolate, and the dances were as follow:—

Waltz	Laura
Lancers	La Cigale
Waltz	Pluie D'Or
Polka	Schlummerlied
Lancers	Knight of St. George
Waltz	Blue Danube
Barn Dance	Iola
Waltz	La Gitana
Polka	Le Premier Pas

SUPPER DANCES.

Waltz	Marguerite
Waltz	Myosotis
Waltz	Our Last
Waltz	Rosen aus dem Suden
Lancers	Trial by Jury
Barn Dance	Faust up to Date
Waltz	Eldorado
Roger de Coverly	Original
Waltz	Sobre las Olas
Polka	Victorio
Waltz	The Shop Girl
Galop	Vivat

The band of the West Yorkshire Regiment played the music to everyone's satisfaction, and we may mention that the fifth item, "Knight of St. George," was specially arranged for this ball by Mr. W. G. Bentley, A.R.C.M., the bandmaster. It contains many old English airs and was, by permission, dedicated to H.E. the Governor. Supper, which was provided by the Peak Hotel through Messrs. Madar and Farmer, was excellently served in the theatre between 11.30 and 1.30, the distinguished guests at the first table being those who danced in the official lancers. On their arrival the band of the Hongkong Regiment commenced the following selection of music:—

Selection...	"East Beef of Old England."	Godfrey.
Waltz	"Reminiscences of England"	O. Lowthian.
Selection...	"Beauty's Daughters"	Sullivan.
Selection...	"Pinafore"	Morelli.
Waltz	"Barrack Room Ballads"	O. Lowthian.
March	"Sweet Briar"	Wm. Clark.
	"Pro Patria"	

The repast was in every respect of the highest class, the menu card, which was printed in red and gold, reading as follows:—

Hors d'Œuvres.

Lobster Mayonnaise.	Chicken Mayonnaise.
Ham Sandwiches.	Beef Sandwiches.
Caviare Sandwiches.	Sardine Sandwiches.
	Prawns.
	Boned Capon with Truffles.
	Pate de Foie Gras in Jelly.

Baron of Beef.	Roast Saddle of Mutton.
	Roast Turkey and Ham.
	Boiled Shanghai Corned Beef.
	Game.
Game Pie.	Boar's Head.
Roast Wild Duck.	Roast Pheasant.
Tomatoes, Celery, Lettuce, Watercress.	
	Pastry.
Blancmange.	Almond Macaroons.
Mince Pies.	Chocolate Sponge Cakes.
	Finger Cakes.
	Desert.
Vanilla Ice Cream.	Assorted Jellies.
Maraschino Jelly.	Strawberry Ice Cream.
	Bonbons.
	Beef Tea.
Cheese.	Tea.
	Coffee.
	Cocoa.

The library was, as customary, used as the card and smoking room, and every attention was here paid to the comfort of the guests, the whist tables being numerous, and the refreshments of the best quality.

The following is a list of the Committees:—

DECORATION.—Captain Rumsey (Chairman), Mr. W. Danby, Captain Tillet, Lieutenant Butlerworth, R.N., Mr. J. Barton, Mr. C. Palmer, Mr. G. A. Caldwell, Mr. T. J. Hutchings, Mr. W. J. Tutecher, Mr. C. Ford, Captain Langhorne, R.A.

INVITATION.—Commander Hastings (Chairman), Mr. E. W. Mitchell, Dr. Atkinson, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. J. P. Cottam, Major Lindley, R.E., Mr. S. J. Hanisch.

LADIES' CLOAK ROOM.—Mr. G. C. Cox, Mr. F. A. Hazeland, and Mr. H. W. Slade.

WHIST TABLES.—Mr. H. E. Pollock and Mr. C. D. Wilkinson.

SMOKING ROOM BAR.—Mr. A. Chapman, Mr. F. Browne, and Lieutenant Davies, R.A.

SUPPER AND WINES.—Mr. E. W. Mitchell, Mr. J. Y. V. Vernon, Mr. Herbert Smith, Mr. B. Layton, Mr. J. H. Lewis, Mr. G. T. Veitch.

DANCING.—Mr. H. Smith, Mr. C. C. Platt, Mr. A. G. Stokes, Mr. S. Hancock, Captain Loveband.

GENTLEMEN'S CLOAK ROOM.—Mr. J. F. Badeley, Mr. J. M. Beck.

The following is the list of stewards:—

Dr. Ayres, C.M.G., Dr. Atkinson, Adm. Sir Alex. Buller, K.C.B., Messrs. F. J. Badeley, J. Barton, J. M. Beck, F. Browne, G. A. Caldwell, Chief Justice Sir J. W. Carrington, C.M.G., Messrs. A. Chapman, J. P. Cottam, G. C. Cox, J. H. Cox, W. Danby, P. G. Davies, R.A., V. H. Deacon, H. L. Denny, N. J. Ede, Surg.-Capt. Edey, A.M.S., Col. Elsdale, R.E., Col. Faithfull, H.K.R., Mr. C. Ford, Col. Fraser, R.A., Hon. W. M. Goodman, Messrs. T. Grimshaw, A. Hancock, S. Hancock, S. Hanisch, Com. Hastings, R.N., Messrs. V. A. C. Hawkins, F. A. Hazeland, H. M. Hillier, Commodore S. Holland, R.N., Messrs. H. J. Holmes, E. Jones Hughes, H. Humphreys, T. J. Hutchings, C. C. Inchbald, Capt. Langhorne, R.A., Messrs. B. Layton, R. K. Leigh, J. H. Lewis, Major Lindley, R.E., Capt. Loveband, A.D.C., Messrs. C. W. May, E. W. Mitchell, C. Palmer, C. C. Platt, Lieut. Plumer, R.N., Messrs. H. E. Pollock, G. H. Potts, W. Power, W. Powell, H. E. Sir Wm. Robinson, K.C.M.G., Hon. Com. Murray Rumsey, R.N., Mr. Herbert Smith, Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith, Messrs. A. G. Stokes, C. H. Thompson, A. Tillet, H. E. Tomkins, W. J. Tutecher, J. G. Veitch, J. Y. V. Vernon, E. S. Whealler, R. C. Wilcox, C. D. Wilkinson.

The N. C. Daily News says:—As already stated the new Imperial Chinese Post-office here will open on the 1st day of the Chinese New Year (2nd February). The new office will be under the clock tower of the Custom House, the rooms in which have been refurnished and set in order for the new work in hand. It appears that in the Yangtze ports there are in all sixteen native private postal agencies all of which have been retained as adjuncts of the Imperial Post-office, and will continue their business as hitherto with regard to inland mails. Most of these agencies have their headquarters either in Shanghai or in Hankow, and the \$400 they have been annually subscribing to the local steamship companies to carry their mails for them to the various Treaty ports has been transferred to the Imperial Postal Department. The mails to the south by sea are to be entirely in the hands of the government office.

THE BURNS CONCERT.

The Scotch concert given under the auspices of the St. Andrew's Society at the City Hall on Monday evening in commemoration of the birth of Robert Burns attracted a most enthusiastic audience and almost every item on the programme was encored. The Band of the West Yorkshire Regiment was in attendance, under the conductorship of Mr. W. G. Bentley, A.R.C.M., and opened with the overture to Macbeth (Hatton), which was splendidly played. Mr. J. Gilchrist followed with a spirited rendering of "There was a lad was born in Kyle," for which he was warmly applauded. The next item was a part song, "Hail to the chief," by a glee party consisting of Messrs. Mirow, Sliman, Measor, Mackay, Grimble, G. Lammert, Smart, Gilchrist, and Armstrong. The parts were well balanced and the execution perfect, and an encore was demanded, in response to which "Annie Laurie" was given, which was also warmly applauded. The part songs, it should be mentioned, were arranged for male voices by Mr. A. G. Ward. The fourth item was a song by Mrs. Vallings, whose appearance on our local concert stage is always warmly welcomed. Her selection on the present occasion was "My love she's but a lassie yet," and as an encore she gave "The Banks of Loch Lomond." Mr. H. Goffe was heard to great advantage in his violin solo, Mackenzie's well-known "Benedictus," one of the few instrumental pieces by a British composer that have achieved a world-wide reputation. As an encore he gave a fantasia on Scotch airs. Mr. D. K. Sliman sang "Mary of Argyll" with such taste and feeling that the audience was completely carried away and the enthusiasm seemed to reach its highest point. As an encore Mr. Sliman sang "Jessie the Flower of Dunblane," in which he was equally successful. The first part of the programme was brought to a close by Mrs. Gordon's "Auld Robin Gray" and her full and rich contralto did full justice to the deep pathos of the song. As an encore she gave "On the banks of Allan Water." After the interval the Band gave a very pleasing selection, "Reminiscences of Scotland," by Godfrey, for which they were warmly applauded. Mr. Gilchrist followed with "A man's a man for a' that," and as an encore gave "Whistle ower the lave o't." Mrs. Gordon then appeared again and gave a charming rendering of "Afton Water." She was of course encored and in reply gave "Here's to the year that's awa." Another part song was the next item, "Scots wha hae," the last verse of which had to be repeated. The Band then again afforded the audience a highly appreciated treat in Allan Macbeth's intermezzo "Forget me not." Mrs. Vallings next sang "Duncan Gray" in her inimitably fascinating style and as an encore gave "Whistle and I'll come tae ye." Some of the younger members of the audience were unfortunately so transported that, apparently, they could not refrain from responding to the invitation to whistle, which caused some little amusement but at the same time rather marred the effect of the song. Mr. D. K. Sliman sang "Draw the Sword Scotland," and was again loudly applauded; and the entertainment concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." The accompaniments to the songs were played by Mr. A. G. Ward and Mr. G. Grimble. Those who were present on Monday evening will long remember the Scotch Concert as a most enjoyable entertainment and will hope it may be made an annual function.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR ON CHARLES DICKENS.

On the 20th January His Excellency the Governor delivered a lecture at Government House on "Charles Dickens, his life, works, style, character, and the lessons that should be learnt from them." The lecture was the opening of the season's lectures promoted by the Hongkong Old Volumes Society and there must have been nearly a hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen present to hear what His Excellency had to say about Dickens, "one of England's most amusing and versatile writers." Sir John Carrington (Chief Justice) presided.

His Excellency first of all gave an excellent concise account of the life of Dickens and then

read, in an admirable manner, many of the best passages in the great novelist's works. His Excellency concluded his lecture with the following summing up of Dickens' character:—Dickens was a philanthropist in the truest sense; the friend of youth, the friend of the poor, and the enemy of oppression. He not only makes us love our kind in its exhibition of moral beauty, but also when frailties mingle with its excellence. He deals in no sophistries to make evil appear good, the worse the better reason. He makes the fact that happiness and virtue are not confined to any one class, a reality to the mind, and by shedding over his pictures the consecration of a heart full of the kindest sympathies. "Rustic life and poverty grow beautiful beneath his touch." For over 30 years Dickens occupied a greater space in the minds of Englishmen than any other writer. As was very truly said by the poor man to whom I have referred, Dickens' books have shed a light on the homes of their readers. A great debt of gratitude is due to anyone who leads us to sympathise with the good, sincere—a true English character of ordinary life—as well as to one who teaches us to hate vice and to laugh at egotism or hypocrisy. Such a debt is undoubtedly due by all English speaking nations to Dickens. Those who know the influence of a wholesome literature over individuals and through them over nations can best realize the value of his works. Dickens awoke in every one of his readers a pathetic interest in human life. He touched the tenderest chords in the human heart, and he inspired many a good and noble deed. I am convinced that many people have learned from his writings the value—the eternal value—of generosity, of purity, of kindness, and of unselfishness, and have learnt moreover to show these memorials of him in their lives. I would ask, where are the novels of to-day—hundreds though there are—which will compare with those of Dickens for truthful delineation of character, comprehension, sympathy, humour, purity, and pathos? Dickens has been unfairly charged with holding up religion to ridicule in the persons of Stiggins and Chadband. He never wrote a word against religion. His faith was simple and I believe sufficient. He exposed hypocrisy, a characteristic which is found in clerical as well as in lay life. To say that his writings contain no religious teaching is to do them a very great injustice. He has also been accused of ridiculing scientific bodies like the British Association and even Parliament itself. It is true that he has often made himself and his readers merry with them in a very genial and good humoured way; using these grave assemblies far more as a vent for his irrepressible humour than with a view of bringing them into contempt. As regards his style it has the merit of being singularly idiomatic and vigorous. Everyone of his works "is a well of pure English undefiled." In the serious moods of his mind there is a harmony of flow about his writing which often glides unconsciously into metrical arrangement and which is full of those words, "which fall as soft as snow on the sea and melt in heart as instantly." In addition to a refined perception of moral beauty, as illustrated in Little Nell, Dickens possessed great tragic power. There is another characteristic about Dickens' works which is particularly worth notice. He carefully avoids introducing into them a single foreign word, which distinguishes him from many of the trashy novelists of the present day whose works are constantly disfigured by that silly affectation. Dickens' writings are also remarkable for another great charm—that is, their stainless purity. The most chaste and refined persons can read any of his productions without receiving the slightest offence to their modesty. He never stooped to pander to depraved tastes. In conclusion it must not be overlooked that in the career of Dickens there is an important lesson to be learnt. It teaches us what can be accomplished by conscientious work and manly self reliance. At a public banquet once given at Liverpool he said that his success was due to his having determined at the outset of his career to throw himself heart and soul into literature—to make it his only means of subsistence, and to stand or fall by it. Acting on this determination, animated by a consciousness of the dignity and respon-

sibility of the profession of letters, he set to work so bravely that notwithstanding the disadvantages of his early life, notwithstanding that his first literary effort, a farce, was condemned, yet at the age of 26 he grasped the starry crown of fame which is within the reach of nearly every man of parts who earnestly and patiently strives to win it. But, ladies and gentlemen, an effort like this does not apply to literature alone. It should be carried into every occupation in which men are engaged, whether it be labour of the head or of the hand. To love our work whatever it be, and to be determined to excel in it, is a spirit with which we should all be imbued, and is indispensable to the attainment of success in any pursuit. It was this love of work and this decision of character, that made Dickens, like all illustrious men, "Scorn delights and live industrious days." We all in our several ways have it in our power to make the world the better for our existence. When our time comes to leave this present Sphere, it will be more than satisfactory to us if we can honestly feel that we have not lived in vain, or in the noble words of Tennyson—

"At least not like a rotting weed,
But having sown some generous seed,
Fruitful of farther thought and deed,
To pass when life her light withdraws,
Not void of righteous self applause,
Nor in a merely selfish cause."

Those lines can be most appropriately applied to Charles Dickens, who wrote "No word which dying he could wish to blot." Of all men he undoubtedly had the great happiness of knowing that he had contributed to the enjoyment, instruction, and improvement of millions of his contemporaries by his imperishable writings, which will yield equal delight to generations yet unborn. Charles Dickens in his last will and testament said, "I rest my claims to the remembrance of my countrymen upon my published works." He was wise. The storms of adverse criticism have beaten and may again beat upon them, but those claims will never be shaken, because they are founded on the sure and solid rocks of truth, purity, and love.

At the conclusion of the lecture, which was most attentively listened to and afforded much pleasure to those present, Sir John Carrington asked the members to show by their applause their appreciation of his Excellency's admirable lecture. They must be all aware of the pain and trouble his Excellency had taken in preparing so full and able a lecture on so wide and large a subject. They all loved Dickens and must have derived great pleasure in hearing the story of his life and the extracts read from his works.

These remarks were greeted with loud applause and the proceedings concluded.

THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the Committee, held at the Chamber Rooms on the 16th January:—Present: Messrs. A. McConachie (Chairman), N. J. Ede, St. C. Michaelson, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following firms had been elected to membership of the Chamber:—Messrs. Grossmann & Co., Messrs. Kruse & Co., Messrs. H. Skott & Co.

THE INCREASE IN TELEGRAPH RATES.

Letters acknowledging receipt of a copy of the report of the proceedings at the special meeting on the 19th September last, to protest against the action of the Joint Telegraph Co. in raising their rates to Europe, America, and Shanghai, from the President, Straits Settlements Association, London; from Liverpool, Leeds, and Blackburn Chambers of Commerce; Colonial Secretary, New Zealand; Board of Trade, Toronto; Tacoma Chamber of Commerce, Winnipeg; Board of Trade, Wellington (N.Z.); Chamber of Commerce, Colonial Secretary, Fiji; San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; Department of Trade and Commerce (O.S.); Newport (Mon.); Seattle, Brisbane, and Dunedin (N.Z.) Chambers of Commerce were read.

REDUCTION IN TELEGRAPH RATES
SOUTHWARDS.

Read letter from Acting Manager, Joint Telegraph Companies, dated 29th December, informing the Chamber of reductions in their tariff to Eastern countries, South Africa, Australasia, &c.

Reply acknowledging receipt of same was sent on the 30th December.

THE "CHINGTU" CASE.

It was announced that, under date 5th January, a letter had been addressed to the Government, pointing out the hardships entailed on shipowners and masters by the operation of the Vagrancy Ordinance (No. 12 of 1888), as evidenced in the case of the master of the British steamer *Chingtu* recently heard in the Police Court, and suggesting amendment of the Ordinance.

The Secretary stated that no reply had yet been received.

TRANSIT-PASSES IN KWANGSI.

The Colonial Secretary had, under date 14th January, forwarded for the information of the Chamber a copy of a translation of a proclamation issued by the Kwangsi Lekin Authorities on the subject of transit passes in that province.

THE LIGHT DUES.

Read letter from Mr. Ritchie, Superintendent of the P. & O. S. N. Co., on behalf of the Agents and Representatives of Companies and firms owning vessels trading to and in the Far East, enclosing copy of a petition addressed to H. E. the Governor against the proposal to permanently levy a tax of 2½ cents per ton for Light Dues on vessels calling at this port, and of the acknowledgment thereof by the Colonial Secretary.

Resolved to reply promising to give the petition the cordial support of the Chamber, and to this end it was decided to address a letter on the subject to the Government and send copies of both that and the petition to various Chambers of Commerce in the East, other British Colonies, and in the United Kingdom.

The Chairman read a letter from the Vice-Chairman (who was unable to attend) suggesting the above course.

QUARANTINE.

Letters from the Colonial Secretary, dated 19th December and 14th January respectively, announcing the entire removal of restrictions on vessels arriving in ports of Indo-China from Hongkong and the withdrawal of medical inspection at Japanese ports of vessels arriving from Formosa, were tabled. These have been already published in local Press.

(Correspondence)

TELEGRAPH RATES.

Billiter Avenue,
London, E.C., 19th Nov., 1896.

R. C. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq., Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th ultimo, handing me a copy of the report of the proceedings at a special general meeting of the members of your Chamber, held on the 19th Sept., to protest against the action of the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies in having very materially raised their rates from China to Europe and America, and between Hongkong and Shanghai, without notice to their constituents.

The general question of telegraph charges to the Far East has been, for some time, a matter of interest to our Association, and at the recent Congress of Chambers of Commerce I gave all the assistance I could to the scheme for laying a cable across the Pacific to Australia, on the ground that it was a first step to a healthy competition with the existing lines.

Since the receipt of your letter I have had a long interview with Mr. Hesse, the Secretary of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, and I understand from him that there is to be a reduction on the rates, as from the 1st January to the Straits Settlements, and from the 1st July next to China.

I do not think that the reduction proposed for our colony, which, I understand, will be about one franc per word, will content the general public, but you may be more fortunate, as I am led to believe that a much more

important reduction is contemplated on China rates.

I will, at the first meeting of the Association, lay your letter before the members and ask for further instructions.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

W. ADAMSON,
Chairman.

Straits Settlements Association.

The Incorporated Chamber of Commerce
of Liverpool.

Liverpool, 17th November, 1896.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 8th October handing copy of protest of your Chamber against the action of the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies, who, according to the terms of your letter and enclosures, have raised their rates to Europe, America, and locally by a considerable percentage.

As this Chamber had quite recently received notification from the Postmaster-General that reductions in the rates for telegrams to Japan had been sanctioned, and that reductions in other rates to the Far East were in contemplation, a letter referring to that notification and giving the substance of your complaint was at once sent to the Postmaster-General, the Great Eastern Extension, and Great Northern Telegraph Companies.

I have pleasure in transmitting to you herewith copy of that letter and of a reply received to-day from the Eastern Extension Co.—I am, yours faithfully,

THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

The Secretary, Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

The Incorporated Chamber of Commerce
of Liverpool.

Liverpool, 12th November, 1896.

Dear Sir,—The Postmaster-General has informed this Chamber that as a result of the Buda Pesth Conference the rate to Japan (via Vladivostok) is about to be reduced from 8s. to 6s. 2d. per word and that the rate of 10s. 8d. via Hongkong will also be reduced.

On the other hand I hear from the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce that in September last, following the ratification of a convention between the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies and the Chinese Telegraph Administration, the rates to Europe were raised 37 per cent., to America 43 per cent., and between Hongkong and Shanghai 100 per cent.

Can you explain for the information of the council of this Chamber the apparent discrepancy in these two statements.—I am, etc.,

THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

The Secretary, the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Co., London.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Co., Limited.

London, 16th November, 1896.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your favour of the 12th instant and in reply have to inform you that your information as to the reduction of the cable rate between Europe and Japan (via Vladivostok) from 8s. to 6s. 2d. per word is quite correct. The tariff between Europe and Japan (via Hongkong) will also be reduced from 10s. 8d. to 8s. 6d. and both reductions will take effect as and from the 1st July next.

The second paragraph of your letter refers to an entirely different matter. As you are aware, the tariff between Europe and China is fixed at 7s. per word, but owing to depreciation of the silver currency the Company, until quite recently, has only been able to collect the equivalent of about 4s. 6s. per word on the homeward traffic, and having to make its outpayments to the other Telegraph Administrations in gold, it has really had to carry the China homeward traffic for practically nothing. Messages for America were actually transmitted between China and India at a loss during the time the silver currency was at its lowest point of depreciation.

Consequently when the Convention which we had for some years been negotiating with the Chinese Telegraph Administration was arranged, establishing as it did the principal recognised by the International Telegraph Con-

vention of collecting the equivalent in the local currency of the official gold tariffs, the Company naturally raised its rate of collection in China and Hongkong to protect itself against this heavy loss. In doing so, however, the Company did not collect the full equivalent of the 7s. tariff to which it was entitled, but only the equivalent of about 6s. per word; consequently, the telegraphing public in China and Hongkong have nothing to complain of, but rather cause for congratulation, seeing that until the 1st July next, when the tariff between Europe and China will be reduced from francs 8.50 to francs 7 per word, they will be paying considerably less than the charge which the Company might reasonably levy for the transmission of their messages to Europe.

In addition to the reductions of tariff above referred to, the Company is reducing its rates to the Straits Settlements, Java, Cochin-China, and other places, particulars of which will be shortly announced.—I am, etc.,

H. HESSE.

Manager and Secretary.

The Secretary, the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool.

Tacoma, Washington.

November 25th, 1896.

To the Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

My dear Sir,—I beg to thank you in behalf of this organization for the copy of a protest against the increase in telegraph rates contained in your esteemed communication of October 8th and to say that if there is anything possible for us to do under the circumstances we shall be glad to do our part. We shall always be pleased to do anything in our power to promote trade between this section and Hongkong and would be glad at all times to receive any publication issued by your organization bearing on trade relations.

With renewed thanks,—Believe me, yours very sincerely,

SAM'L. COLLYER,
Secretary.

The Board of Trade of the City of Toronto,
Toronto, November 16th, 1896.

R. C. Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, China.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your circular bearing date October 8th, 1896, together with copy of report of the proceedings of the general meeting of your Chamber, and in so doing I am directed by my Council to advise you that this Chamber is on record as doing all in its power to assist in a scheme for laying a cable across the Pacific through British territory and, as you may have noted by the Press, Canadian delegates are at present in London, England, conferring with delegates from other ports of Her Majesty's domains, with the special object of promoting better cable service, and that direct through British territory.—I am, dear sir, yours truly,

EDGAR E. WILLS,
Secretary.

The Eastern Extension The Great Northern
Australasia and China Telegraph Co. of
Telegraph Co., Ltd. Copenhagen.

Hongkong Station,
28th December, 1896.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—With reference to previous correspondence and particularly to our letter of 19th August, I have the pleasure to inform the Chamber that from the 1st January next the following further reductions in tariffs will come into operation in this region; and from the same date further facilities will be given for news telegrams, by the establishment of the following reduced press rates.

(Here follows table of Rates.)

Taking into consideration the substantial reductions to the Companies' rates that were made on the 1st July last, the further large reductions which come into force on the 1st January, and the extension of the system of reduced Press rates, the Chamber will not doubt recognize that the interests of the telegraphing public have been met by the Companies in a liberal spirit, as the loss of revenue which the

Companies will incur by the reductions is considerably greater than the increase of revenue consequent upon the readjustment of rates on the 1st August last.—I remain, dear sir, yours faithfully,

W. BULLARD.
Acting Manager in China.

30th December, 1896.

W. Bullard, Esq., Acting Manager in China,
Eastern Extension and Great Northern
Telegraph Companies.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your favour of the 28th inst. announcing, in tabulated form, further reductions in tariffs to Straits Settlements, North Borneo, Netherlands Indies, India, Ceylon, Indo-China, Siam, Australasia, &c., &c.

Your letter is being placed before my Committee.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

SHIPOWNERS AND THE VAGRANCY ORDINANCE.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 5th January, 1897.

Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to bring to the notice of the Government what seems to them a defect in the law relating to impecunious persons landed in this colony as embodied in Ordinance No. 12 of 1888 known as the Vagrancy Ordinance.

In November last the master of the British steamer *Chingtu* was fined \$600 for detaining eight Japanese stowaways on board his ship for thirty-six hours after her arrival in port from Kobe. The defendant sought to justify his action by pleading the Vagrancy Ordinance, which forbids the master of a merchant vessel, under heavy penalties, to land, or to permit to be landed, in the colony any persons without visible means of support.

My Committee are of opinion that the law as it stands imposes a great responsibility on shipowners and masters, and places the latter on the horns of a dilemma. If their allow stowaways or destitutes to land, they become responsible for their maintenance, besides being liable to pay in addition all costs and charges incurred in connection with them; if, on the other hand, they detain such persons on board until they have communicated with the authorities they are, as in the case of the master of the *Chingtu*, liable to a fine for false imprisonment.

The Committee would therefore respectfully suggest the amendment of the Ordinance, first by giving masters of ships the necessary powers to detain stowaways on board after arrival in port for a reasonable time, to afford them an opportunity to communicate with the authorities and hand such stowaways over to their Consuls or to the Government; and, secondly, by revising that clause of the Ordinance which holds shipowners responsible, six months after landing, for passengers who have paid their own passages to the colony. This clause undoubtedly entails hardship on the shipowner, and might readily be modified to refer to those persons only whose passages had been paid for them, or who were known to be destitute of resources.

With regard to Asiatic stowaways, my Committee venture to think that the responsibility of shipowners and masters should cease upon their handing such persons over to the care of the Government.

Trusting that this suggestion will commend itself favourably to the attention of the Government.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

THE LIGHT DUES.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co.
Hongkong, 14th January, 1897.

R. C. Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong
Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—On behalf of the Agents and Representatives of Companies and Firms owning vessels trading to and in the Far East, I beg to hand you, herewith, for the information of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce a copy of a petition, dated 24th December, 1896, praying His Excellency the Governor not to

carry the recommendation of the majority of the Unofficial Members of Council that a tax of 2½ cents for light dues should be permanently levied on vessels calling at this port into effect. I also enclose a copy of the letter received from the Colonial Secretary acknowledging the receipt of the petition.

The letter addressed by the Chamber to His Excellency on the 31st July last so accurately expresses the views of the shipping community on the subject of light dues that we feel assured we may confidently rely on the cordial support of the Chamber in furthering the object of our petition, and I would beg to ask the Committee to invite the co-operation of the principal Chambers of Commerce in Great Britain in representing to Her Majesty's Government the impolicy of inflicting a tax on shipping, with the avowed purpose of raising money for local revenue. I would beg to point out that if a tax on shipping is levied with this intention in an adjacent British colony, which has hitherto been a free port, it will assuredly have a most prejudicial effect on any representations which may be made to the Government of China to bring the excessively heavy tonnage dues imposed on vessels trading with that country within reasonable limits.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

H. A. RITCHIE.
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 24th December, 1896.

His Excellency Sir William Robinson,
K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-
Chief of the Colony of Hongkong.

May it please your Excellency.

We, the undersigned, agents and representatives of companies and firms owning steamers trading to and in the Far East, have the honour to address you, in the names and on behalf of our principals, on the subject of the light dues now levied and proposed to be levied on vessels entering the port of Hongkong, with special reference to the correspondence, recently published, between your Excellency's Government, the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, and the Unofficial Members of your Council concerning the Gap Rock light dues.

2.—We understand from that correspondence that your Excellency is prepared to give effect to the promise made by your predecessor in office when the Gap Rock light dues were first voted and to abolish those dues, the entire cost of the Gap Rock light with all its accessories having been more than covered by the proceeds; but that your Excellency proposes to permanently raise the general light dues levied on vessels frequenting this port from 1 cent to 2½ cents, to supply the deficiency caused in the general revenue of the colony by the abandonment of the special charges in respect of that Light.

3.—We beg, in the first place, to bring to your Excellency's notice that by Sir Henry Pottinger's Proclamation of the 16th February, 1842, Hongkong was declared a "free port, and no manner of customs, port duties, or any other charges were to be levied on any ships or vessels of whatever nation or sailing under whatever flag that may enter the port or on their cargoes." Secondly, we would remind your Excellency that, until the year 1875, no light dues were levied in Hongkong and that they were only imposed in that year for the special purpose of reimbursing the Government the amounts then recently expended on the erection of lighthouses and for no other purpose, and that the rate then imposed of one cent per ton would appear to have been continued after the requisite sums had been raised more through inadvertence than by design. Lastly, your Excellency has before you, in the letter of the Chamber of Commerce addressed to you in July last, the promise of a late Governor of Hongkong that the Gap Rock light dues then imposed were not intended to be a permanent charge on shipping, or a permanent addition to the Colonial revenue, but a temporary charge intended to cover and provide for a special expenditure incurred mainly on the representations of shipowners and of the shipping interest.

4.—Your Excellency's proposal to burden the commerce of the port with a permanent charge on shipping of 2½ cents per ton (estimated to bring in a sum of \$113,000 per annum), in aid of the general revenue of the colony

when all, and more than all, the expenses connected with the construction of all the light-houses have been defrayed and when the estimated cost of the whole lighthouse establishment, including cost of maintenance and repairs, amounts only to \$16,870 per annum, is an entirely new departure and is not in accordance with the very clear and distinct provisions of the proclamation declaring Hongkong a free port.

It was not unreasonable that when, for the convenience of commerce, the Government of the colony was called on to incur a large capital expenditure in the erection of light-houses at the request mainly of the shipping interest, the shipping should provide the funds required. There is nothing unreasonable or to which your petitioners will object in an adequate charge on shipping to defray the expenses of maintaining buoys, beacons, and lights in and about Hongkong, but that ships and steamers should be taxed in aid of the general Colonial revenue and to relieve the inhabitants from bearing their proper burdens is wholly in disaccord with the character of a free port and is, we respectfully submit, opposed to the practice of the leading commercial nations. These buoys, beacons, and lights are maintained for the benefit of the colony and the profit of its inhabitants, and to attract trade and commerce thither, and the inhabitants not only have not borne one cent of the expenses of their construction or maintenance, but it is now proposed that they should derive a direct profit from them.

5.—We very much doubt if in any highly civilized country has a deliberate attempt ever been made to raise a profit revenue out of light dues. They have always been imposed for the express purpose of providing for the construction and maintenance of lighthouses, buoys, and beacons and for no other purpose whatsoever. It has happened that in the course of time the precise object for which a light due has been imposed has been lost sight of and that a profit revenue has in fact been derived from it, but so soon as attention has been called to the fact there has been an express disclaimer and a reduction or abolition of the charge. In the Dardanelles and Bosphorus such a discovery has recently been made, and the representatives of all the Powers are pressing the Porte for a reduction of the dues to an amount sufficient to cover the expenses. In England a Departmental Committee of the Board of Trade have just reported on the same subject, and have unanimously recommended the equalization of all light dues and their diminution to an amount calculated to cover expenses and no more. The strongest representations have been made to the Government to relieve shipping entirely of this burden and to transfer it to the general revenue, but so far without success; the principle, however, is clearly admitted that the light dues on shipping should not be made a source of profit.

6.—We have further to point out to your Excellency that the continuance of these light dues as a permanent charge is an injustice to foreign shipping, and will tend to deter vessels from coming to the port. The export trade from the East has for some time past been passing through a period of very great depression. During the greater part of the last twelve months rates from the Straits Settlements averaged from 5/- to 8/- per ton, and from Ceylon about 7/-, and for some descriptions of cargo rates from China and Japan have been as low as 15/- per ton. Interport trade has also been at a very low ebb for some time past and there is no apparent prospect of any improvement in the immediate future. Every item of expenditure has to be closely watched, and a comparatively small difference in the expenditure at a port may determine the course of a vessel's voyage. Steamers coming out to Japan and Shanghai are no longer as formerly compelled to call at Hongkong for coals or stores. The great increases in speed, the diminution in the consumption of coal, and greater bunker capacity enable vessels to make the voyage direct to Yokohama or Shanghai without coming into Hongkong. The inducement to call is often very slight. Frequently it is a question, even with a big steamer, of taking in or discharging as little as 100 to 200 tons of cargo. The light dues to be paid may

make all the difference between a profit and a loss on small quantities of cargo, and may decide the steamer to avoid the port. If she does not call then her expenditure here is entirely lost to the residents, and a permanent injury done to the trade of the colony.

7.—We respectfully protest against this deliberate taxation of shipping frequenting the port for the benefit of the general revenue of the colony. It is entirely opposed to the idea of a free port. It is an additional burden with no corresponding advantage whatever upon an already heavily burdened interest. Its tendency is in every doubtful case to drive away from the port steamers and ships which would otherwise call and necessarily spend money here, by perceptibly increasing their expenses, at a time when every expenditure has to be most minutely considered and weighed. The shipping has already paid more than all the money expended on the lighthouses and is willing to continue to pay for their proper maintenance. The original charge of a cent per ton is more than enough to cover all the Colonial expenditure that should legitimately fall on steamers and ships frequenting the port, and we respectfully submit that any further charge is unwarranted and ought not to be levied.

8.—We have the honour to request that your Excellency will, before carrying into effect the recommendation of the majority of the Unofficial Members of Council, tendered to your Excellency without any consultation with the principal shipping firms—the persons most interested—to re-impose in another form the special Gap Rock light dues, refer this our respectful remonstrance and complaint to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

9.—If your Excellency should decide to submit the matter for the consideration of the Secretary of State before any change is made we ask your permission to forward copies of this letter to all Chambers of Commerce and to all shipping organisations, and to invite their co-operation with us in representing to Her Majesty's Government the injustice attending the course your Excellency's counsellors have recommended to you.—We have the honour to be, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servants.

H. A. RITCHIE,
Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Co.
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents, Ocean Steamship Co., Ltd.,
China Navigation Co., Ltd.,
Scottish Oriental S.S. Co., Ltd.
G. DE CHAMPEAUX,
Agent, Messageries Maritimes.
MELCHER & Co.,
Agents, Norddeutscher Lloyd.
D. E. BROWN,
General Agent, Canadian Pacific
R. Co.
J. S. VAN BUREN,
Agent, Pacific Mail and Occidental &
Oriental Steamship Co.
p. pro DODWELL, CARLILL & Co.,
E. S. WHEELER,
Agents, Northern Pacific Steam-
ship Co., Shire Line, Mogul
Steamship Co., and others.
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents, "Ben" Line of Steamers,
Eastern & Australian S.S. Co.,
Limited.
HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,
Agents, China Mutual Steam Navi-
gation Co., Limited.
ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.,
Agents, Shell Line, Rickmers Line.
SIEMSEN & Co.,
Agents, Kingsing Line, &c.
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
General Managers, China and Manila
S.S. Co., Limited.
Agents, Oregon Railway and Navi-
gation Co.'s Pacific S.S. Line.
Agents, Union Line and others.
SANDER & Co.,
Agents, Austrian Lloyd S. N. Co.
THOS. ARNOLD,
Secretary, Hongkong, Canton and
Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.
CARLOWITZ & Co.,
Agents, Navigazione Generale Ita-
liana.

BRADLEY & Co.,
Agents, Shan Steamers.
DOUGLAS LAPEAUX & Co.,
General Managers, Douglas S. S. Co.,
Limited.
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,
Agents, Apcar Line of Steamers.
K. S. KIYOOKA,
Agent, Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
H. JEFFRIES,
Agent, Mitsui Bishi-Goshi-Kwaisha.
LIAO TZE SAN,
Manager, China Merchants' S. N. Co.
WIELER & Co.
JEBSEN & Co.
LAUTS, WEGENER & Co.
Agents, Koninklijke Paketvaart
Maatschappij.
K. FUKUI,
Manager, Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Hongkong, Colonial Secretary's Office.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant covering a petition to His Excellency the Governor on the subject of light dues, and to inform you that the matter in question will receive His Excellency's early and careful consideration.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

H. A. Ritchie, Esq., Supt., P. & O. S. N. Company.

Hongkong General
Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 21st January, 1897.

Sir,—A copy of the petition presented to His Excellency the Governor by shipping firms and agencies representing steamers trading to and in the Far East on the subject of the light dues having been forwarded to this Chamber, my Committee wish to express to the Government their most emphatic concurrence in the views set out in that memorial.

In a letter addressed to you on the 31st July last the opinions of this Chamber on this important question were stated at some length. The mere amount of the light dues is not regarded so much as is the principle involved in the practical retention of the special Gap Rock tax. That tax was imposed at the suggestion of the shipping interest when advocating the provision of a light at the southern approach to the port, and it was agreed that its imposition should cease so soon as it had yielded a sum sufficient for the purpose. This has been accomplished, and the one cent per ton ordinarily levied is ample to pay for the upkeep of all the existing lights. My Committee feel therefore that they cannot too strongly protest against any attempt to perpetuate a tax imposed for a special object, at the request of shipowners for a specified time, and to merge it into the general revenue of the colony.

This Chamber is deeply penetrated with the conviction that in the preservation intact of the freedom of the port mainly depends the continuance and growth of the prosperity of the colony. This freedom is the keystone of the arch of that prosperity which has been slowly built up in spite of many obstacles and some natural disadvantages. What otherwise can account for the position Hongkong has at length attained as the third port in the Empire for magnitude of tonnage? My Committee earnestly deprecate attempts to impair that freedom by the imposition of any of those taxes which in many ports hamper the movements of the mercantile shipping and blight the growth of commerce, to the ultimate detriment of the treasures they were designed to enrich.

My Committee would, finally, respectfully suggest to His Excellency the Governor the danger of this colony setting an example to the neighbouring countries of a desire to make a revenue out of the light dues—an example which it is to be feared may be only too readily followed. In some ports of the United Kingdom an agitation is now proceeding for the reduction of the light dues, and it would seem to be a retrograde step in this great free port of the Far East to augment them for purposes of general revenue.

Sincerely hoping that His Excellency will see his way to accede to the prayer of the shipowners' petition.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General
Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 21st January, 1897.

H. A. Ritchie, Esq., Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Co.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter on the 14th inst., together with copies of the petition addressed by the Agents and Representatives of Companies and Firms owning steamers trading to and in the Far East to His Excellency the Governor on the proposal to virtually make permanent the present temporary special Gap Rock light tax and the acknowledgement thereof by the Colonial Secretary.

I am instructed by my Committee to say that the petition has their hearty concurrence and will receive their cordial support. A letter expressive of approval of the tenour of the petition and firmly sustaining its arguments has been addressed to the Government (of which I enclose a copy), and it is proposed to send copies of the petition and letter to the various Chambers of Commerce in the East and in the United Kingdom, as also to the British Colonies.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

THE LIGHT DUES.

The following correspondence has passed between Mr. H. A. Ritchie, Superintendent of the P. & O. Company, as representing shipping, and the Hon. Secretary of the China Association on the subject of light dues.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam
Navigation Company,

Hongkong, 14th January, 1897.

Dear Sir,—On behalf of the agents and representatives of companies and firms owning vessels trading to and in the Far East, I beg to hand you, herewith, for the information of the Committee of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association a copy of a petition, dated 24th December, 1896, praying His Excellency the Governor not to carry the recommendation of the majority of the Unofficial Members of Council, that a tax of 2½ cents for light dues should be permanently levied on vessels calling at this port, into effect. I also enclose a copy of the letter received from the Colonial Secretary acknowledging the receipt of the petition.

We have no doubt that we can rely on the cordial support of the China Association in furthering the object we have in view.

Apart from other considerations, which are fully dealt with in our petition, I would beg to point out the impolicy of inflicting a tax on shipping with the avowed purpose of raising money for local revenue. If such a tax is levied with this intention in an adjacent British colony, which has hitherto been a free port, it is obvious that it must have a most prejudicial effect on any representations which may be made to the Government of China to bring the excessively heavy tonnage dues imposed on vessels trading with that country within reasonable limits, or with a view to securing that the proceeds of those dues should be strictly applied to the purposes for which they are ostensibly levied, which should include, for instance, the dredging of the Woosung Bar.

I beg to request that you will forward copies of this letter, with its attachments, to the London and Shanghai branches of the Association by the first opportunities.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

H. A. RITCHIE, Superintendent.
Fullarton Henderson, Esq., Secretary, Hong-
kong Branch, China Association.

China Association,
Hongkong, 22nd Jan. 1897.

H. A. Ritchie, Esq., Superintendent, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Hongkong.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your esteemed favour of 14th inst., handing copy of a number

only signed petition addressed to His Excellency the Governor calling his attention to the subject of light dues, pointing out, in the opinion of the petitioners, the inexpediency of taxing shipping visiting the colony to the extent of 2½ cents a ton, and praying that the question may be carefully reconsidered before the tax is passed as a permanent charge on shipping.

I have had much pleasure in acceding to your request by forwarding copies of your letter, together with enclosure, to the China Associations in Shanghai and London.—I am, dear sir, yours obediently,

F. HENDERSON,
Hon. Secretary.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

On the 22nd January His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., presided at the annual distribution of prizes at Queen's College. There was a large attendance of parents and friends, amongst those present being Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary), Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. Cyril Platt (Private Secretary to his Excellency), and Surgeon-Colonel Evatt.

The Headmaster (Dr. G. H. Bateson Wright) read his annual report as follows:—

Queen's College,
19th January, 1897.

The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward the annual report on Queen's College for the year 1896.

1.—The total number on the roll was 988. In 1895 the attendances had to a great extent recovered from the depletion of 1894; but in 1896, instead of a continuance of this improvement, there was a relapse, partly due to the recurrence of bubonic plague. There was, however, no evidence of panic such as was manifest in 1894, the absence of several boys being attributable to the removal of families from the colony to escape sanitary precautions, not from fear of the plague itself, as was reported early in the year to the Inspector of Schools by several school managers. The admissions and readmissions were in each quarter of the year quite up to the average, which would be inconsistent with the idea that Chinese had in 1896 the same fear of Hongkong as a plague centre that they had in 1894.

2.—The falling-off (\$3,000) in revenue from fees is quite out of proportion to the diminution in attendance referred to above, and is largely attributable to the reduction of the second and third classes by one half, through causes not under my control. It will take two or three years for the attendances in the Upper School, where the fees are highest, to attain their former figure. An economy of \$350 was effected by closing two class-rooms and dispensing with the services of a temporary assistant and two monitors.

3.—On the recommendation of the Governing Body, the section known as the Chinese School (i.e. the classes in which Chinese boys were for 36 years taught to compose in their native language and to read and understand their native literature) was abolished. By the removal of these ten hours a week devoted to the study of Chinese by the lower and preparatory schools, an increase of three hours a week for the acquisition of English was obtained for the lower school and second and third classes. It was not possible to increase the hours in the first class, where with special classes 31½ hours a week were already assigned to English, and where for eight years the scholars had been exempted from Chinese studies. It should not be forgotten that the adoption of this course was formally recommended by the Inspector of Schools in 1887 and mooted by him even earlier.

4.—To meet the difficulty of ignorance of their native language on the part of Chinese boys the Governing Body proposed an entrance examination, but after a short experience the manifest tendency to debar admissions altogether led to the removal of this restriction.

5.—From the balance of the salaries of the native teachers in the Chinese school, after the

payment to them of pensions, the Governing Body approved and recommended the increased scale of salaries for native assistants in the English School, the importance of which has been urged in my reports for some years. A new post of clerk was created, to which Mr. U Hang-kam, A.A., was appointed, the duties of clerk having previously been discharged by the first and second Chinese assistants, upon whose time it was found to make too great a demand.

6.—A lecture on education in Burma, delivered before the Rangoon Teachers' Association last spring by a Chinese gentleman, Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, shows that the educational problems that are engaging attention in Hongkong are not unknown elsewhere. His words are: "The constitution of the Education Department in Burma dates only from 1866. One generation has passed away, and literary culture does not appear to be prized among the natives of Burma, beyond the walls of the school or college. Further, the students who are supposed to know English, and who have passed high University examinations, are unable either to speak or write fairly well in that language."

7.—It cannot be said in Hongkong that English studies are neglected by students after leaving Queen's College; there is abundant evidence that they aim at progressive self-improvement. Nor must we forget the colony of our boys in the Northern Universities, as well as those scattered over the area from Japan down the coast of China and Tonkin even to Singapore and beyond Penang. A large proportion of these speak and write in the English language admirably, and several of them are anxious to assist their fellow countrymen in the acquisition of Western ideas: they therefore write for the most part in Chinese, and but little is known of their unostentatious labour. Mr. Luk, our second Chinese assistant, is engaged in bringing out a second edition, revised and enlarged, of his bilingual English grammar, and Mr. Wan, our late fourth Chinese assistant, has published a Chinese translation of outlines of English history. Several works, too, have appeared, due to the industry of our old scholars; a book on insurance and two on European and Chinese civilization compared, by Mr. Chan He-wan; and this year Messrs. Lo Sing-lau and Mok Lai-ohi have independently published little books on English conversation with Chinese equivalents.

8.—While on the subject of publishing, it may not be amiss to add that within the last three years six little books for the use of this College have been printed (the word published is hardly applicable, as they are for private circulation) at the expense of the Government. One of these is "Notes on the Geography of the Chinese Empire," a very useful book by Mr. Dealy, Senior Assistant Master; the remaining five are translations of Chinese books in use in various classes, made long ago by different masters, but suffering from the effects of tradition and transcription, on which account they were finally revised by myself. Considerable saving of time, hitherto employed in copying from the blackboard, is thus effected, to say nothing of prevention of many careless errors in taking down handwriting.

9.—His Excellency the Governor at the prize distribution last February offered two prizes of \$50 and \$25 respectively to the Chinese boys of this institution who should write the best and second-best essays on the progress of the British Empire during the last fifty years. Seven boys competed last November and the Governing Body, who acted as judges, reported Li Ut and Sin Cheung as writers of the two best essays. His Excellency accordingly presented them with the amounts.

10.—Mr. Jones has been absent on leave throughout the year. Mr. Jameson and Mr. Woodcock went on leave in April, the latter on completion of six years' service. Messrs. Barclay and Courtney have been acting Assistant Masters since April and June, respectively. Mr. Fung Ki-chenk, A.A., one of our cleverest junior Chinese assistants, resigned in April on getting an appointment as assistant comptroller.

11.—Our boys paid 33 fees for the Oxford Local Examinations, but only 24 presented themselves, equally divided among Seniors, Juniors, and Preliminary. Of these 11, or 46 per cent., passed, exactly one half of the Seniors,

and the same proportion of the Preliminary passed, which may be viewed as satisfactory, being the average of former years. The mark "good," which is next to distinction, was awarded as follows, to 9 boys for arithmetic, 1 for history, 1 for Shakespeare, 3 for Robinson Crusoe, 3 for geography, and 1 for Act.

12.—Acting under instructions from the Governing Body, I conducted the Annual Examination. Pursuing the practice of former years I took 100 marks as the maximum in every subject, less than 50 obtained was reckoned a failure in any subject, for a class pass a boy had to pass in half the subjects offered, i.e. in the Upper School passes in 7 subjects, in 5 in the Lower School, and in 3 in the Preparatory were required, which is sufficiently severe. The general result of the examination is far above the average, in fact, I should have been justified in characterizing it as a phenomenal success had it not been for extreme weakness in class I. B. and the two lowest non-Chinese sections. The total number examined was 517 boys, of whom 469 or 90 per cent. passed, represented as follows in the three main sections:—

	Total number examined	Percentage passed
	1896	1894
Upper School	114	217
Lower School	209	201
Preparatory	194	169
	181	181
	90	90
	93	92
	94	96

The whole staff deserves great credit for steady and careful teaching, of which there is ample evidence even in those cases referred to above where the percentages are low. In by far the majority of papers there was none of the drudgery attendant upon correction of ill-digested and badly written answers.

13.—The usual tables of the number of boys examined and passed in each subject and of percentages of passes are here subjoined.

14.—Remarks on individual subjects.
Reading.—Generally careful and very good. I must still complain of want of imitation in intonation, without which reading is merely perfunctory, and loses the opportunity of being an aid to acquiring conversational power in a foreign language.

Colloquial.—Very good in the Upper School, with the exception of the two lowest sections of the non-Chinese classes. Good in the Lower School.

Dictation.—With the exception of I. B., who utterly failed, very marked improvement, chiefly due to more drill in spelling exercises, which is much needed, as Chinese, besides confusing vowel-sounds, are perplexed with double final consonants.

Composition.—Deserves high praise. Boys in the Upper School require, however, to utilize laws of syntax and principles of analysis in finally correcting their own sentences.

Grammar.—Here all the non-Chinese sections were lamentably weak; otherwise the work is of a far higher order of merit than usual.

History.—Two classes marred what would otherwise have been an excellent record. In Classes I.A. and N.I., I could not refuse full marks to two boys.

Geography.—Generally good; a decided improvement on 1894.

Map-drawing.—This is a test from memory in the Lower School. The result is quite up to the average, several maps being marvels of reproduction. In the Upper School the drawing of a map forms one of the questions in geography, but as the portion selected is uncertain the test is severer and but few boys satisfy it.

Translation into Chinese.—Lower percentage than 1894.

Translation into English.—This is chiefly mechanical, being memoriter work. Where boys attempt independent translation they are seldom successful, as their ignorance of Chinese leads them to guess work.

General Intelligence.—Considerable improvement in the higher classes.

Arithmetic.—Good, but comparing the work of the year with the results of the examination, the effect produced is disappointing.

Algebra.—Good, but exceedingly poor in non-Chinese sections.

Euclid.—Excellent in I. A. Very good in I. A. and I. B. Good in I. B. Bad in the three non-Chinese sections.

Bookkeeping—Taught by Messrs. Barlow and Barclay, is good; the work of several boys being excellent. Some non-Chinese boys tried this year, but, though none of them passed, they showed a fair acquaintance with the principles.

French—Introduced as a substitute for Latin in non-Chinese sections, cannot be expected to have attained a high standard in so short a time.

Shorthand—Non-Chinese boys in all four sections passed a very creditable test, restricted at present to transcription.

Shakespeare—Very good in I. A. and N. I. Total collapse in I. B. and N. 2.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

GEO. H. BATESON WRIGHT, D.D. Oxon,
Headmaster.

After reading the report Dr. Wright said—I have now to thank your Excellency for coming at great personal inconvenience to preside here to-day. The date appears to be unfortunate, but it was fixed three months ago, and Chinese New Year could not be induced to shift to favour St. George's Hall. I think a great measure of the success of the late examination may be attributed to your Excellency's inspiring remarks to the boys last year. As, however, it is no secret that your Excellency has lately been in an atmosphere of Charles Dickens, I would beg your Excellency to dismiss from your mind all prejudices against the profession of schoolmaster that might be suggested by the immortal portraiture of Mr. Squeers and Do-the-boys Hall.

His Excellency then distributed the prizes, after which he said—Ladies and gentlemen, in the first place I have to thank Dr. Wright for so kindly asking me to distribute the prizes this morning, and I need not say that I have performed that pleasing function with a great deal of satisfaction. Although I have lately been revelling in an atmosphere of Charles Dickens, as Dr. Wright said, I am sure he will believe me when I say that I never for a moment compared him with Wackford Squeers or Dr. Blimber; and I know that forced asparagus and very sour gooseberries are never produced at this school at the wrong season of the year. No kinder, or more energetic, or more enthusiastic master has ever presided over Victoria College or Queen's College or any school in this colony than Dr. Wright. (Applause.) That applause is strong evidence that my remark is a perfectly correct one. You have all heard Dr. Wright's report read. I have heard it read, but I have not read it myself. You will perhaps think I have been wrong in not reading it, but I was very glad to hear that the results of the examination have been so good and so very satisfactory in some of the higher classes. I did not read this report because I saw when I opened it that the second and third paragraphs entered into controversial matters, and I am not a controversialist and I am not an educationist. I am a plain matter of fact man in the matter of education. As I appointed, with the assistance of Dr. Wright, the Governing Body of this College I think I had better not enter into any controversial matter. When I came into this hall I noticed that Dr. Wright looked upon this roll with considerable apprehension: perhaps he thought I was going to inflict upon you—as long a speech as I did last year. I have no intention of doing anything of the sort. The question of education is a problem not only in England but in Hongkong, and opinions are bound to differ on the subject. For myself, I am certainly very glad indeed that the Governing Body, with the concurrence, I suppose, of Dr. Wright, took considerable pains to introduce into this College some reforms which I recommended last year. They have, I think, very properly simplified the aim and character of this institution by abolishing Chinese teaching in the College and making the school into what I may call a purely English school; that is, a school giving a purely English education to boys of all nationalities. It is too soon, I think, to decide whether this alteration is a wise one or not, but my own opinion is that the salutary and beneficial effects of it will be seen in the near future. In the second place, the Governing Body decided to give up the time

which was saved by this alteration to the teaching of English colloquial speaking. It is too soon, as is shown by what Dr. Wright stated in his report, to say whether this is a good move or not. I think the Governing Body will have to grapple with this question systematically, and I do not think it is sufficient to deal with it by isolated efforts in the higher classes only. On the 16th February, 1898—I think it was from this very spot—I made the remark that I thought that English speaking in this colony should be imparted by Englishmen—by English teachers; but it seems to me—I am simply a plain practical man as far as education is concerned—it seems to me that it is impossible for a Chinese teacher, however able he may be, to teach English, because, as you all know, there are several letters in the English language which a Chinaman has the greatest possible difficulty in pronouncing, and there are many sounds in the language which it is quite impossible for him to produce. I believe I am right in saying that some classes—classes 5, 6, and 7—are never taken by English masters and I think that is a matter which ought to come up for the consideration of the Governing Body. As I said before, it is quite impossible to compare a Chinese master, however good he may be, with a professionally trained master who has been taught in England. I am quite sure that every one must agree with me in that particular. I also hope the Governing Body will see about the reduction in the numbers. I do not understand how this reduction has come about. It cannot be attributable altogether to the plague: there must be something wrong in the state of Denmark. Last year, in that long speech which I imposed upon you, I said that Hongkong was for ever going to be a British colony, and that was a reason why you should all learn English. There is another reason. It has been said that if there ever is a universal language in common use it would be the English language. (Applause.) That is another reason why I want you to learn English. If you start from London for Hongkong, we will say, you will find that English is the spoken language by nine-tenths of the people in every port at which you stop. If you start again from Hongkong to Vancouver and across to Montreal you will find that English is spoken all along the line with the greatest fluency and by nearly every person. Shakespeare talked about putting a girdle round about the earth in forty minutes. Why, the English people have done it in forty seconds by telegraph and we shall do it in a very short time by the Anglo-Saxon tongue: of that I am convinced. The bunch of papers which frightened Dr. Wright so much—I hope, Dr. Wright, you have got over your fright by this time—the bundle contained one or two very interesting statements. I was very pleased to hear that a great many scholars after leaving the College keep up their knowledge of the English language; but what I want to know is, are we in Hongkong doing as well as they are in other ports on the China coast? Are we in this great College, in this magnificent hall, doing all we can to spread the knowledge of English? They are doing a great deal at Shanghai, at Nanking, and I am glad to say at Peking. It is possible that the Chinese nation has awakened a little bit in regard to education. I will now read to you an extract from the *North China Herald*—“We are glad to note also that in Nanking, the capital city of these three provinces, there is a University under the control of the Methodist Episcopal Mission whose work deserves more than a passing notice. It has recently held its First Graduation Exercises, which were duly reported in our Nanking correspondence. These exercises attracted the attention of the whole official body of the city, and at a reception held especially in their honour leading representatives of both the civil and military officials visited the University and were entertained at dinner. The Viceroy Liu Kun-yi, who is supposed to be anything but favourable to foreigners and their methods, himself called at the University and presented prizes amounting to \$100 to the graduating pupils. This is undoubtedly the first time in the history of the new education in China when so high an official has taken such an interest in the work of an institution under foreign control, and

it is a most hopeful sign.” A few pages further on you will see that something has also been done in Peking, which is not a very progressive place. We learn that in accordance with a report from the President of the Tungwen College in Peking, the Yamen Ministers in charge will henceforth do more to encourage students in the study of the arts and sciences. Mr. Oliver [I believe he is the headmaster of the college] points out that while posts as student interpreters to Legations in Europe are open to successful students in Western languages, no encouragement is held out to their *confreres* in the Science department. You will find that the English language is spreading with great strides in Nanking and Peking and I want Hongkong to do as much as these outside ports in promoting the knowledge of the English language. It was very satisfactory to me to give those Oxford Local certificates away, but it seems to me that what the taxpayers and the Government of the colony want to know is not that there are half-a-dozen boys fit to carry these certificates away, but what the general, the average, result of the teaching has been. I should judge by the report that it is very satisfactory. I think too much weight has been given to the Oxford Local Examination. I hope Dr. Wright and the Governing Body will not look upon me as a carping critic; they must believe that I have been actuated only by a desire to extend the influence and increase the usefulness of this College. When I am at home or in some other colony—if I have the good luck to be promoted to one—I can assure you I shall watch the progress of this College with the greatest possible interest. (Applause.) In conclusion, boys, let me impress upon you the necessity for great industry in all your work. I was lecturing on Dickens the day before yesterday, and the reason of Dickens' success in life was that he loved his work and was determined to excel in it. That is the spirit which should actuate all you boys in this fine and useful College. I have again to thank Dr. Wright for his kindness and I trust he will have many years of success in this sphere of work. (Loud applause.)

Dr. WRIGHT—As your Excellency has alluded to the possibility of this being the last occasion on which you will visit this College, I should like to state that from the first time your Excellency distributed the prizes here up to the present time the School has profited largely by the suggestions made by your Excellency. I remember at the first prize distribution you spoke on the subject of colloquialism and your remarks were promptly paid attention to and I am happy to say that on the next occasion there was a marked improvement which pleased your Excellency. With regard to your Excellency's remarks about the Northern schools I am glad to say that our boys take the highest places straightaway on their arrival there. (Applause.) I again thank your Excellency for your address to-day and I now ask you to tell the boys that the holidays begin now and the school meets again on Monday, 22nd February.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I am very much obliged to Dr. Wright for what he has said about me and about my possible departure—this will probably be the last time I shall address you—and about the interest I have taken in this College. I am glad to hear that boys do go up north and take all the high positions, but I should like some of them to be retained in the colony. The holidays commence to-day and when you come back I hope you will devote yourselves to your school work as well as you have done in the past and that you will be successful in any work you may undertake. (Loud applause.)

Cheers for His Excellency the Governor, for the Head Master, and for the ladies concluded the proceedings.

The following is the prize list:

Oxford Local Certificates—Senior—Sin Ching, A.A., Luk Ki-kwong, A.A., Chan King-ting, A.A., Lai Ch'an-ping, A.A. Juniors—Chan Ming-tung, C. Ellis, C.H. Lee, Preliminary—R. H. Craig, E. Abraham, R. Pestonjee, S. A. Ismail. Scholarships—Morrison Senior—L. A. Chan King-ting, Morrison Junior—L. A. Chan King-ting, Stewart, L. A. Sin Ching, L. A.

lios Senior, I. C. C. H. Lee, Belilios Junior, III. A. Hu Kam-shui, Belilios Extra, III. A, Tse Ching-fong.

Special Prizes.—Pupil Teachers, 1, Sin Cheung (merit); 2, Lai Chan-pong. Translation, E to C, Ho Kau-kwan; C to E, Ch'an Chin-lai. History, I. A, Ch'an Ming-tsung; I. C, R. Pestonjee; II. A, Ng Piu. Composition, I. A, Ch'an Ming-tsung; I. B, Ch'an Chin-un; I. C, C. D. Silas; II. A, Tai Tin-tsoi; II. C, J. Waddilove; III. A, Hu Kam-shui; III. B, Fung U-ku.

Class Prizes.—I.A., 1, Chan King-ting, 2, Luk Ki-kwong; I.B., 1, Ho Wan-shang, 2, Wong In-tao; N.I., 1, C. H. Lee, 2, A. K. Fuc-keera; N.II., 1, A. Ismail; II.A., 1, Lo Pun-fai, 2, Im Yat-wing; N.III., 1, R. Abraham, 2, M. Silas; N.IV., 1, A. Stockhausen; III.A., 1, Wong Kai-leung, 2, Tse Ching-fong; III.B., 1, Chü U-tok, 2, Leung Chi-fai; IV.A., 1, Ng Fung-chan, 2, Tsang-fuk, 3, Chung Tsung-pak; IV.B., 1, Pün-chenk, 2, Chu Ting-cheung; V.A., 1, Lam Kin-fan, 2, Wong Kit-leung, 3, H. Fuc-keera; V.B., 1, Wong Tak Kwong, 2, Lam Tso-hing; VI.A., 2, Ho Sham, 2, Cheng Kai-un; VI. B, 1, Ip Pak-wing, 2, Lau King; VI.C, 1, Li Sik-hung, 2, U Yau-pui; VII. A, 1, Tam Kam-king, 2, Chau Kwan-tsun; VII. B, 1, Hung Kwok-leung, 2, Lam Yik-ting; VII. C, 1, Hung Hing-kam, 2, Wong Ying-kai; VII. A, 1, Wong Wai-chui, 2, Ch'an Cham; VIII. B, 1, Pang Pat, 2, Cheng Pan-leung; VIII. C, 1, Fung Shia-pang; 2, Lo U-tong.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

The annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of this school took place on the 21st Jan. The proceedings were of a private character.

Mr. Cobbold, who distributed the prizes, said—Very likely some of you wonder why we are not following the custom of previous years in inviting our friends to be present and providing them with a musical entertainment. Well, there are two reasons. In the first place, there has been no examination this year, in consequence of Dr. Eitel's illness, and so we have no Examiner's report to present to our friends. The second reason is that many of the scholars have already gone home for the New Year holidays. I am pleased to find by the way in which you have all cheered the prize-winners that you are pleased with their success. We cannot give a prize to every boy in the school; if we did so, then they would not be prizes at all. In awarding marks in the Scripture Examination, I found that in every class the first boy had only a very few marks more than the second and third boy, and I have no doubt this is the case in all the subjects. So, many of those boys who have not received any prizes must console themselves with the thought that the prize-winners are only a little better than they are, and I hope every boy in the school will make up his mind to do his best during the coming year. Although, as I have said, there has been no examination this year, we know that the work of the school is quite as good as in any previous year. The results of the Oxford Local Examination are highly satisfactory, and, considering the number of boys in the school, we have done better than any other school in the colony. I especially congratulate Edward S. Ford, who is distinguished in Scripture and in English, both subjects of the highest importance. Let me urge you all to follow his example, and obtain distinction not only in examination, but also when you leave school. This brings me to another subject. There are none of the old boys present here to-day, but you will tell them what I say. The old boys have always shown a regard for the school, and on more than one occasion have given practical proofs of this regard by making donations to the school. At one period during the past year, when we wanted money for a special object, the old boys came forward and subscribed the sum required. I trust you boys, when you leave school, will never forget the place in which you have received your education. Never forget while you are in the school that its good name is in your keeping; if any boy misconducts himself he brings disgrace not only upon himself but upon his schoolmates, the school, and the

masters. The school has an excellent reputation; parents and guardians are glad to be able to send their boys here, knowing they will be well educated and carefully looked after. The Committee desire me to say that they have again to thank Mr. and Mrs. Piercy and the masters for the excellent way in which the boys have been looked after. The holidays commence to-day, and the school will re-open on Monday, February 22nd, when I hope you will all be in your places and ready to commence work punctually.

HEAD MASTER'S REPORT FOR 1896.

School was taught on 253 week days; the scholars numbered 196 (last year 167); the average attendance was 91.76 (the highest of any year except 1895). Owing to the demand for students for the University and the Medical School at Tientsin, our higher classes were unusually small, but to compensate for this the lower classes were very full. In July 13 boys sat for the Oxford Local Examinations. 7 passed (namely, 2 Seniors, 3 Juniors, 2 Preliminary), or 53.8 per cent. The percentage for Hongkong was 43.8 and for England 72. The boys of this school are seriously handicapped by not being able to take the classical and French or German papers, which earn so many marks in England. English being to them a foreign language, we have to devote to it the time that elsewhere is given to Latin, Greek, French, etc. E. S. Ford was specially distinguished in religious knowledge and in English. No other Hongkong candidate was "distinguished." Three boys have entered for the local examination of the London College of Music, but the results are not yet known. The annual school examination did not take place, as H.M.'s Inspector was too ill to attend. In accordance with H. E. the Governor's kind promise at our last prize giving, the Government has partly levelled and greatly improved the West Point recreation ground; this has been much appreciated by the boys, but like a well known character in fiction they ask for "more." The ground is very small, but might easily and with great advantage be enlarged. Our best thanks are due to Sir John Carrington, Hon. W. M. Goodman, and E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., Messrs. Fung Wachuen, D. Gillies, Ho Tung, T. Jackson, A. Mackie, W. Quincey, and G. Sharp for kindly providing the prizes.

EXAMINER'S REPORT.

I have examined 73 boys in the Diocesan School in their lessons from holy scripture and am glad again to be able to report favourably upon the work done. The two junior classes were examined orally, and answered very well. The other classes wrote their answers, the upper boys in each class with much credit to themselves and their masters. There were fewer feeble papers than usual, and in each class the second and sometimes two more boys came very near to the first, showing that there had been considerable competition amongst them. On the whole the work is satisfactory.

R. F. COBBOLD, M.A.

Hongkong, 14th January, 1897.

PRIZE LIST.

Oxford University Local Examinations—Seniors, W. Elphinstone, U. Hayasake; Juniors, E. S. Ford (distinguished in English and in religious knowledge), G. Benning, J. M. Hoahing; Preliminary, W. Reiners, P. Wilnan.

Class Prizes.—VII.—1, E. S. Ford; 2, Li Man-fong. VI.—1, W. Reiners; 2, Sz Ho-kee. V.—1, Li Chi-on; 2, P. Tregillus. IV.—1, Chan Yam-teng; 2, Fan Kau. III.—1, Choi Po-sin; 2, Wong Ting-kan. II.—1, Lo Chau-ho; 2, A. Meester. I.—1, Li Wing; 2, Au Ki.

Scripture Prizes.—VII.—R. H. Waller. VI.—W. Reiners. V.—J. Olson. IV.—H. Moore. III.—1, J. E. Piercy; 2, J. R. Wong. II.—A. M. Watson; I.—B. Henriquez.

Special Prizes.—VII.—Algebra and Mensuration, E. S. Ford; Euclid and Physical Geography, Li Man-fong. VI.—Euclid and Physical Geography, Sz Ho-kee. V.—Algebra and Physical Geography, J. Olson. IV.—Algebra and Euclid, Chan Yam-teng. Drilling, G. Benning. Drawing, Choi Po-sin. Fife and Drum Band.—1, F. Meester; 2, W. J. Clarihew. Good Conduct, G. Benning.

THE HONGKONG, CANTON, AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO. LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders to be held at the office of the Company, on Saturday next:—

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the report and statement of accounts for the half-year ending 31st December last.

After paying running expenses, salaries, premia of insurance, repairs, and all other out-goings, there remains, including \$47,302.02 brought forward from last account, the sum of \$139,493.76 at credit of profit and loss account. From this amount the Directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 8 per cent. on capital, or \$96,000, be paid to shareholders, that 5 per cent., or \$42,750, be written off the value of steamers, and that the balance of \$743.76 be carried forward to new account.

The earnings of the steamers compare favourably with those of the corresponding six months of the previous year, and there is nothing of special interest to report in connection with their working.

Repairs have again been somewhat heavy. The new starboard paddle shaft for the *Honam* referred to in the last report has been fitted, the *White Cloud* has had an extensive overhaul, and the *Heungshan* and *Powan* have undergone the usual annual docking and repairs. During the gale on the 5th October the *Heungshan* sustained some damage, which has been made good at a cost of about \$14,000, half of which is recoverable from underwriters. The Company's proportion of the loss is provided for in the present accounts.

Owing to the progress of the Praya reclamation works, the expense of wharfage has been materially increased, the Company's pier being no longer available. The sum of \$20,604.32 has been received from the Government as compensation for disturbance, and this amount has been set aside to partially meet the cost of a new wharf. Pending the completion of the reclamation works, an arrangement has been made for temporary wharfage.

The two small boats built by the Dock Company have been taken over, and it is expected that, with the opening of the West River, which now seems probable, that profitable employment may shortly be found for them. Meanwhile, as an experimental measure, one boat has been placed on the Hongkong-Macao line, leaving this in the morning and returning in the afternoon.

The properties mortgaged to the Company have, as usual, been re-valued by Messrs. Palmer and Turner, who consider them ample security for the sums loaned.

Upon leaving the colony Mr. J. Kramer resigned his seat at the Board, and the Directors have nominated Mr. C. Beermann to fill the vacancy, subject to the confirmation of the shareholders at this meeting.

The retiring auditors, Messrs. A. O. D. Gourdin and F. Henderson, offer themselves for re-election.

E. R. BELILIOS,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 22nd January, 1897.

31st Dec., 1896.	ASSETS.	\$.	c.
Value of 4 steamers and 5ths of "Fatsan"		855,000.00	
Value of 2 steam-launches		50,000.00	
Value of wharves		20,000.00	
Value of cargo-boat and wharf cargo shed		700.00	
Value of iron lighter "Sun Lee"		9,600.00	
Value of coal and stores		2,969.37	
Value of spare gear		5,557.85	
Value of furniture		750.00	
Value of shares in public companies		295,427.23	
Value of Chinese bonds		1,024.48	
Loans on mortgage		717,200.00	
Fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		20,604.32	
Cash with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on current account		8,557.17	
Interest accrued to date		1,155.37	
Amount paid on account of new lighter now building		4,900.00	
Amount recoverable from underwriters account "Heungshan" average claim		7,032.33	
Sundry debtors		8,417.71	
		3,200.12	33

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
31st Dec., 1896.			
Amount of capital, 80,000 shares of \$15 each, fully paid up	1,200,000.00		
Amount of refund of capital of \$5 per share on 10 shares unpaid	50.00		
Amount at credit of depreciation and insurance fund	600,000.00		
Amount at credit of equalization of dividend fund	9,000.00		
Amount at credit of investment fluctuation account	14,148.93		
Unclaimed dividends	3,124.90		
Hongkong wharf special account, amount received from Government, to be expended on new wharf	20,604.32		
Sundry creditors	21,890.92		
Amount at credit of profit and loss account.	139,493.76		
	\$2,008,112.83		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
31st Dec., 1896.	Dr.		
To amount paid for repairs:—			
To steamers	\$42,772.77		
To wharves	820.80		
To lighters	66.82		
	43,660.39		
To "Heungshan" average claim, Company's proportion	7,236.92		
To directors' and auditors' fees	2,750.00		
To balance to be appropriated, viz.:—			
Dividend at 8 per cent. on \$1,200,000	\$96,000.00		
To be written off value of steamers	42,760.00		
To be carried to new account	743.76		
	139,493.76		
	\$193,141.07		

30th June, 1896.		\$	c.
Cr.			
By amount brought forward from last account	47,302.02		
31st Dec.			
By net earnings of steamers	114,549.72		
By interest on investments	31,063.33		
By transfer fees	226.00		
	\$193,141.07		

DEPRECIATION AND INSURANCE FUND.		\$	c.
31st Dec., 1896.	Dr.		
To balance	600,000.00		
30th June, 1896.	Cr.		
By amount at credit	600,000.00		
EQUALIZATION OF DIVIDEND FUND.		\$	c.
31st Dec., 1896.	Dr.		
To balance	9,000.00		
30th June, 1896.	Cr.		
By amount at credit	9,000.00		

WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of shareholders in the West Point Building Company, Limited, was held on the 21st January at the office of the General Agents. Hon. C. P. Chater presided and there was also present Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. M. D. Ezekiel, C. S. Sharp (Directors), A. Shelton Hooper (Secretary), St. C. Michaelsen, T. I. Rose, G. H. Potts, H. M. Mody, J. N. Goosmann, Paul Jordan, S. S. Benjamin, W. H. Ray, and M. S. S. Sassoon.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report and accounts, which have been with you for some days, will, I have no doubt be considered very satisfactory. The net returns for the year amounted to \$12,134.32 as against \$6,132.71 in 1895. This has been brought about by the larger number of tenements which have been occupied since our last report, when the gross monthly rentals amounted to \$1,809, whereas today I am pleased to inform you that they amount to \$2,567, leaving only 13 floors vacant as against 87 vacant floors a year ago. Our net returns would have been still larger but for the heavy item of insurance, the premium paid having increased from \$663.23 to \$1,602.25, and repairs to the property amount to \$1,197.20, this in a great measure being caused by the Sanitary Board regulations. On the other hand you will observe a reduction in interest paid on our mortgage of about \$800, and I am pleased to be able to inform you that your Directors have made arrangements for a still further reduction of interest for the next two years. The property is in good state of repair and your Directors hope that the dividend we now propose paying, viz., 90 cents as against 60 cents last year, will be deemed satisfactory and will not only be maintained but if the tenements continue to be as satisfactory as they

have been during the past year we may look forward to paying a slightly increased one in the future. If any shareholder wishes any further information I shall be glad to answer any questions which may be put.

Mr. MICHAELSEN—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution. There is nothing for me to add to the remarks that have fallen from the lips of the Chairman. I have no doubt that shareholders have been very glad to notice an improvement in the accounts, and as we are led to understand that the present year will be a still better one I can only express the hope that it will turn out so.

Carried.

Mr. POTTS moved the re-election of Messrs. M. D. Ezekiel and C. S. Sharp as directors.

Mr. ROSE seconded.

Carried.

Mr. MODY proposed the re-election of Mr. Fullarton Henderson as auditor.

Mr. GOOSMANN seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow. I thank you for your attendance.

THE "ILTIS" RELIEF FUND.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

1.—The Committee has the honour to issue the following report for the perusal of subscribers.

2.—The Committee sent subscription lists to the principal Chinese coast ports, Peking, and Hongkong.

3.—Shanghai, the Yangtze ports, and also Chefoo have been acting independently in this matter.

4.—Germans and subjects of other nationalities have everywhere subscribed with great willingness and liberality, and the Committee beg to express their warmest thanks to all and especially to those gentlemen who have taken upon themselves the trouble of collecting signatures.

5.—The Chief Commander of the German navy has expressed his sincerest thanks, in a letter addressed to the Imperial German Consulate of Hongkong, for the sympathy shown by this movement for the relatives of those who perished in this sad disaster and intimates that the funds so kindly collected be remitted to the Reichs Marine Aust, which will receive all such monies.

6.—A specified list of subscribers will be attached to the remittance.

7.—The following is the total of the subscription lists:—

	\$	cts.
Hongkong	2,449.15	
Canton	485.00	
Swatow	330.00	
Amoy	286.00	
Formosa	390.00	
Foochow	355.00	
Newchwang	20.00	
Tientsin	1,834.52	
Peking	186.00	
Hoihow	50.00	
Interest accumulated	34.34	
	\$6,420.01	

Less cost of telegram to Shanghai ... \$ 8.00

Less cost of telegram to Berlin ... 38.50

Printing matter (no charge made by Messrs. Guedes & Co.) ... 46.50

M. J. 13,766.78 at 2.16. Balance \$6,373.51
Hongkong, 15th January, 1897.

The Committee,

N. A. SIEBS,

Chairman:

J. H. GABEELS,

Consul Dr. KNAPPE,

J. KRAME,

St. C. MICHAELSEN,

P. SACHSE,

H. STOLTERFOHT,

G. WIELER.

M. GROTE,

Secretary and Treasurer.

GEO. FENWICK & CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary meeting of the above Company was held at the Hongkong Hotel on the 21st January for the purpose of confirming the resolution which was passed at the extraordinary meeting held on 29th December last. The shareholders present were Messrs. W. Parlane (Chairman), W. Rodger, R. C. Wilcox, F. Henderson, H. Hyndman, and W. G. Winterburn (Manager).

The CHAIRMAN read the notice convening the meeting and said—I will not take up your time by any remarks of mine, but if any shareholder present wishes to make any remarks or ask any questions on the subject of these special resolutions he will now have the opportunity of doing so before I propose that they be confirmed.

No questions were asked and the CHAIRMAN then proposed that the resolutions passed at the extraordinary meeting be confirmed as special resolutions.

Mr. R. C. WILCOX seconded.

Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen; I thank you for your attendance. I hope the next meeting will be the favourable one of dealing with a dividend.

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the Company on the 21st Jan., at noon. Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving presided and there were also present—Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. S. C. Michaelsen, M. D. Ezekiel, N. A. Siebs, D. R. Sassoon, Leo Sing (Directors), A. Shelton Hooper (Secretary), N. J. Ede, G. H. Potts, T. I. Rose, J. M. Goosmann, Paul Jordan, C. S. Sharp, J. M. Forbes, Fullarton, Henderson, A. McConachie, G. Murray Bain, W. H. Ray, R. C. Wilcox, G. C. Cox, T. Arnold, Dr. Thomson, C. A. Tomes, R. K. Leigh, J. Y. V. Vernon, P. M. A. da Graca, S. A. Seth, and J. Hooper.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report and accounts for the past year having been circulated, I propose to take them as read. Your Directors, in presenting the same, have pleasure in pointing out that, notwithstanding the lower rates of interest on mortgages which have ruled during the period under review, and the increased burdens on property on account of the stringent regulations of the Government, we are able, in addition to paying the same dividend as heretofore, to carry forward to a new profit and loss account the sum of \$56,550.49 as against \$46,867.52 transferred from 1895, a result which I hope you will consider satisfactory. In comparing our balance sheet with that of the previous year, you will notice that the amount advanced on mortgage is \$2,204,401.60 as against \$2,512,624.12 being more than three lacs less, and consequently the amount of interest earned thereon has been very much smaller, and whilst mentioning this source of revenue I would draw your attention to a slight difference in the way that item is shown in the profit and loss account. Hitherto we have given only the net credit balance of interest account, but as some of our shareholders were, on a previous occasion, misled in thinking that the amount shown under interest was the gross return on our advances, the accounts have been drawn up in a way which now shows the interest paid as well as earned. The properties owned by the Company stand in the books at \$2,426,174.08 as against \$1,797,736.54 on the 31st December, 1895, showing that during the year, principally in the latter half, we have acquired property to the value of over \$600,000, on which amount you will understand revenue was not derived for the whole period. Some of our purchases were of land in course of reclamation, and upon these it will necessarily be some time before we can obtain any return. One of the total amount invested in property, I think will interest you to know, that nearly \$700,000 represents the value of our property in an undeveloped state and consequently yielding no return at the moment, but which in the future

of time, will materially assist in swelling our rental returns. A little more than half of the above sum represents value of land actually in course of reclamation, and which will take longer to develop than our other land. Property to the value of over \$200,000 is at present being built upon, and will, we hope, be all in a fit state for occupation before another 18 months, and some of it much sooner. Property costing approximately \$80,000 is also in course of development, and plans and details for laying out the same are in hand, so that, provided no unforeseen circumstances detrimental to house property takes place, your Directors have every hope, in the course of time, of the earning power of the Company being much improved. In drawing any comparison between the amount standing at property account in the balance sheet and rent account in profit and loss account on the 31st December last, I would ask you to bear in mind the figures I have given in connection with the Company's undeveloped properties, and the fact that most of the properties bought in 1896 were acquired during the latter months of the year. Turning to the debit side of profit and loss account you will observe that charges and other expenses show some slight increase, which must necessarily follow as the Company's interest in house property becomes larger. Repairs to house properties is an item which shows a considerable increase, not only owing to the larger number of houses we own, but on account of works necessitated by the Government and Sanitary Board regulations, and the expenditure in this connection, which, strictly speaking, is more of the nature of improvement to property than repairs, has been wholly debited as heretofore to profit and loss account. Fire insurance premium has increased to a great extent on account of the new tariff, under which we are unable to secure the same advantageous rates as formerly. In conclusion, gentlemen, I may state that each of our mortgages shows an entirely satisfactory margin and all the property we own is in a good state of repair, and, in the case of our developed properties, the returns they yield, except in two instances, are over 6 per cent. net. With regard to these exceptions your Directors do not think it necessary to make any provision for same, as the deficiency in their returns arises from purely local and, we hope, temporary circumstances. We trust that the course we have again pursued of carrying forward a larger amount than on former occasions will meet with your approval, as your Directors deem it better than paying any increased dividend at present. Should any shareholders wish for any further information, I shall be pleased to answer any questions which may be put.

There were no questions and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts. Mr. McCONACHIE—Mr. Chairman and gentleman, I am sure we have all listened with pleasure and satisfaction to the remarks just made by our Chairman. He has gone so fully into the figures of the report, and made it so abundantly clear that the affairs of this Company are not only well but carefully and ably managed, that very little is left to comment upon. He has told us that we have acquired properties, principally during the latter half of the year, to the value of over \$600,000, and no doubt this has gone partly to swell accounts payable from \$442,681.03 in last account to \$758,193.81 in the present one, and I would here like to express the hope that the Board will keep their eyes on this account, and not permit it to increase too much. We all know that the shares of the Land Company are much favoured by investors, and I think it would have a very bad effect on the stock if the possibility of a call or, worse still, an issue of debentures was looming in the distance. He has further told us that no less a sum than nearly \$700,000 represents the value of our property in an undeveloped state and consequently yielding no return. Gentlemen, it is pleasant to look forward to the time when returns from this large sum will come in, and when no doubt our dividend will be proportionately increased, but in the meantime I think we should be quite satisfied with a return of 8 per cent. and personally I strongly approve of the policy of the Board in carrying forward any balance remaining after paying such a dividend. It must be as great a

satisfaction to the Directors to be able to state as it is to the shareholders to receive the statement that each of our mortgages shows an entirely satisfactory margin, and in the case of our developed properties (with two exceptions) the yield is over 6 per cent. I may here state, and I do so after inquiry, that the Board, very wisely I think, do not increase the book cost of any of our properties developed or undeveloped, by debiting them with one cent of interest. With these remarks I beg to second the adoption of the report and the passing of the accounts.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. ENDE—I have much pleasure in proposing the re-election of Messrs. Michaelsen and Lee Sing as directors.

Mr. JORDAN seconded.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. SHARP proposed the re-election of Messrs. Henderson and Coutts as auditors.

Mr. FORBES seconded.

Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting. I thank you for your attendance. Those of you who apply at the office can have dividend warrants to-morrow morning; all those shareholders outside the colony will have their warrants posted to them where their addresses are known.

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

NAVY V. ARMY.

A friendly match—five a side—of these teams was played at the Happy Valley on Monday, the 25th inst. and resulted in a somewhat easy win for the "Reds." After a generous luncheon at the Club House, tendered to the competing sides by a popular and leading exponent of the ancient game, and well catered for by "A Kan," play was started at 2.15 p.m. One or two of the players on either side were more or less out of practice, or the finish might have been closer, and we were sorry to miss the genial presence of the Captain of the Club, who was prevented from assisting the "Blues," his time being occupied in some intricate calculations of revenue derivable from light dues!

Another record of the green was established by Capt. Jones of H.M.S. Grafton, the "home" or ninth hole being financed in 2. The Navy v. Civilians are now even on records, and it rests with the soldiers, who embody some A1 and coming players, to push to the front and equalise matters: the nine holes are open to them all the year round!

The following is the result of the match:—

NAVY.	Holes.
Lieut. James, R.N.	0
Capt. Ward, R.M.L.I.	0
Capt. Jones, R.N.	4
Mr. Keys, R.N.	3
Mr. W. S. Frowd, R.N.	0
Total	7

ARMY.

ARMY.	Holes.
Capt. Phillips, W.Y.R.	11
Rev. G. R. Vallings	10
Lieut. W. M. Thompson, R.E.	0
Major Grant Dalton, W.Y.R.	0
Lieut. Howard, W.Y.R.	4
Total	25

Capt. Phillips negotiated his first round in 39, which, though not quite a record score, was a good return for a match game, and somewhat disconcerting to his opponent.

It is not generally known, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that there is an establishment at Nagasaki at which inoculation for the prevention of hydrophobia on the Pasteur system is practised. The physician in charge of it, under Government approval, is Dr. Kurimoto Tomei, a professor of the Fifth Higher College of Medicine and chief of the medical department of the Nagasaki Government Hospital. We are informed that his treatment of cases of bites from dogs suffering from rabies has been very successful. If that is so, it will be a great convenience to residents in north and central China, Nagasaki being much more accessible, and having a much better climate than Saigon.

CRICKET.

ARMY V. NAVY.

This match was played on Friday and Saturday. The following are the scores:

1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
C. Gordon, b Bedwell 18	st. Bowden-Smith 23
Capt. Dyson, c Arbuthnot, b Bowden-Smith 25	c coolie, b Bedwell 0
T. H. Howard, W.Y.R., b Bedwell 19	b Bedwell 12
M. D. Wood, W.Y.R., b Bedwell 16	b Bedwell 3
Rev. G. R. Vallings, b Bedwell 13	not out 23
Sturg. Major Johnston, c Faria, b Bedwell 34	did not bat.
Capt. W. S. Carey, b Arbuthnot 10	did not bat.
R. Isaacs, W.Y.R., c and b Arbuthnot 0	b Bedwell 7
C. Ryall, W.Y.R., not out 21	b Bedwell 10
W. H. Logan, W.Y.R., c and b Bedwell 3	c Hickley, b Bedwell 1
P. G. Davies, R.A., b Elliott 8	c coolie, b Bedwell 13
Extras 14	Extras 11
Total	181

NAVY.

Lieut. Farie, l.b.w., b Wood	0
H. B. Bedwell, b Gordon	38
J. M. Steel, b Howard	20
Lieut. Bowden-Smith, b Gordon	1
Lieut. Sir R. Arbuthnot, c and b Howard	56
Dr. Pead, c Vallings, b Wood	14
Lieut. Com. C. J. Dormer, b Wood	14
Lieut. F. J. Plumer, c Davies, b Howard	16
Lieut. Hickley, b Wood	0
H. M. Elliott, not out	18
Lieut. Shelford, b Wood	8
Extras	9

THE CAREW CASE.

In the Carew case at Yokohama on the 13th January Henry Vansittart Dickinson was called by the prosecution. He said he was a clerk in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and had been resident in Yokohama since 1890. He was a friend of Mrs. Carew and had been on friendly terms with Mr. Carew with the exception of a serious quarrel he had with him some years ago and which had been long since made up. He had been in frequent correspondence with Mrs. Carew. He was then examined on the stitched letters and one marked "Iota" was placed in his hands. It was proposed that the clerk of the Court should read the letters, but as he had some difficulty in doing so the witness read them. When he commenced he supplied the blanks, but was requested simply to read them as they stood without any interpolations. The letter marked "iota" was as follows:—

"You ask me dearest to take time over answering your letter and in the same breath to give it you at tiffin. An—fice on a mail day with all its—terruptions is not an easy place and—do not know as I begin the how—where I shall end. What do you—ant me to say? It is impossible to go back to the old footing. He has altered all that and if you were a free woman I would ask you to come to me. You know this. Long ago when I first knew you something of a passion for you would now and then come over me and envy of the man who had you and now when you are thoroughly estranged and have come to me for help what I had easily checked before has risen again with a strength that is multiplied a thousand fold by the knowledge that now you love me.

"Dearest, the scene of last night shall not take place again. We cannot help now I think loving. It know it is wrong but you are not to blame I think so much as I, but for others sake than ours the grosser sin shall be avoided. Can—go on as we are? I do not see—can help it.

"I went into all this—beginning only with the honest int—aiding you and cheering you up for—and you enjoyed my coming. When I found your life so drear and empty of happiness that should have been yours my heart bled for you and I knew—excuse anything you might do. It—pity darling then akin to love and now I love you. I know that if you were free I would take you and keep you while—lasted and therefore I now—

The witness was then questioned in respect of each of the blanks, but with the exception of

those obviously suggested by the context he was unable to fill them. "He has altered all that" referred to Mr. Carew, but to nothing within the witness's own knowledge. Mrs. Carew told him that she was exceedingly unhappy, that her husband had ill-treated her in a great many different ways. That was generally what she told him. He knew it now to be all untrue. The words "Dearest, the scene of last night shall not take place again" referred to an affectionate passage between Mrs. Carew and himself. He had never witnessed any ill-treatment of Mrs. Carew by her husband. Witness next read as follows from Exhibit Mu:—

"looks back any to—can write to me—. But come down to—come about 2.3—goes up to-day we can have a—I am still staying at the Jacks—but have told them not to expect—to tiffin as I wished to look out—you down here. If you write me a—it will be all right to send it—the Bank as I shall leave—instructions. Your letter reach—this morning. Should I all—ind about tiffin I shall—t—see you. Why do you—this. You did not come—I want so much t—ay stop down here—and 2.6 train too—the cricket field—follow I must—is there—to meet you wet or fine—thanks for Jude. I send the 'Play Actress'."

"H.—
"I will give you the 'Play Actress' when I see you."

Shown exhibit 10 witness identified it as Mrs. Carew's handwriting, but said he did not think he received the letter. He received one in the same substance, but had destroyed it; he destroyed all her letters.

Mr. Lowder objected to the letter being put in, as the witness said it was not the one he received, but the point was overruled.

The letter commenced as follows:—

"Forgive me, my dear. I always come to you in my trouble, there is not mu—the matter but I should like (or ask) your advice on a matter which must—early to-morrow—is so far quite indifferent as to yesterday beyond calling you a few inelegant names. He is seedy, Miyansoshita did not suit him in more ways than one."

Mr. Wilkinson—The rest of the letter presents a difficulty. Names are mentioned there that I do not wish to have dragged in; not that I wish to hide anything. I am prepared to receive any suggestion from your Lordship.

His Lordship—I have no suggestion to make. What has Mr. Lowder to say?

Mr. Lowder—Nothing, my Lord.

His Lordship—The jury must see it.

Mr. Wilkinson—The jury will see the letter, and will see all of it. But I suppose it cannot be helped. Did you, Mr. Dickinson, receive a letter in which the subsequent things are referred to?—Yes.

Witness then read:—

"Miss Bolitho was not *—wing to the rains. She was * to leave us or get down * Ikao. She however is—Yokohama on Wed. and he asked *—and—chaperon—companion to dinner here Wed—the same evening. Can I refuse to meet them or keep quiet by remaining passive. I rather think the latter, it will give him less of a handle to bully me. To add to the situation it would be nice to have you here on that evening: how do you like it? I haven't—"

Mr. Wilkinson—Would you look at exhibit "epsilon," who are the he and him in that letter—whom did you think they referred to?—To her husband.

Witness, reading:—

"I cannot go to bed, my sweet, without writing a line which I shall deliver if I can before I go down. Thank you for letter of to-day. I could not answer it as I stopped your coolie as he left the house and merely wrote an acknowledgement. My poor dear darling—I knew you would suffer for yesterday, but it revealed to me more than ever, dearest, how much I loved you and how much you have become to me. I shall hope always that all this constant abuse of me will never cause you to look at me with other eyes than those you have now, although I feel you think much too highly of me. I feel so sure of your strength and steadfastness. And it is really after all abuse that is not deserved. I think he must think you care for me (without an idea that

I know and return your affection) and though he probably does not know the extent you have gone, he cannot but feel he has lost you and that you would if you could come to me. This must, I think, account a good deal for his horrible dislike of me. You know, dearest, in one way I care nothing for it. If I had you for my own I would laugh at his hatred. But I always do feel it badly in another way that even he—much as I despise and loath him—should have this hatred of me. It's very childish, but I cannot get over the feeling. But I would not give you up for all the hatred of the whole clan and family of C—s. I love you utterly, my dear one, and the remembrance of yesterday will be ever with me. I have been thinking much about your probably having to meet this woman. I wish for your sake that you could refuse to, but have come to think that you cannot well do so. Do you know anything against her? If not you should meet her I think. It would bring you endless bullying, refusing, and I want that to be avoided as far as possible. If you refuse, refuse on the ground that he has insulted you before others and you do not wish for a repetition—refuse first on these grounds and after that on account of his relation to her. That is to say if you refuse at all. But I think you will have to stay and entertain her. If you cannot do it, ask Mrs. Jackson if you may come in here to dinner; it would make her think, but there is no woman you could trust more than her."

You refer there to your letter of to-day, what letter was that?—I think that must have been the letter that I have just read, the one from her.

This is a letter you wrote to her in response to one received from her?—Yes.

And the references to "him"?—Her husband. And the "her"?—The lady invited to dinner. Who?—Miss Bolitho.

When you say, "I knew you would have to suffer," to what did you refer?—We had been out riding the day before and she said her husband would be angry; and in the letter she said that he was.

In the letter you refer "to constant abuse from him," by whom?—By Mr. Carew.

Had you heard any abuse yourself?—No. I believe it not to be the case.

From what source of information did you derive the statement that there was constant abuse of you?—From Mrs. Carew.

The expression "horrible dislike"—have you the same or a different explanation?—No, the same explanation.

When you say "much as you despise and loathe him," had you expressed it to him?—No, my feelings towards him had been aroused by what Mrs. Carew had told me. I had never exhibited any such feelings to him.

When you say, "the remembrance of yesterday will be ever with me"?—That simply referred to the ride that we had together—nothing else.

You say, "I have been thinking much about your having to meet this woman, I wish for your sake that you could avoid it"—was the ground of this wish from something that came within your own knowledge?—No.

From what source did you get that knowledge?—From Mrs. Carew.

"It would bring you endless bullying"?—By her husband.

Why did you think there would be bullying?—It was suggested to me in a letter by her in the first place. I understood from her that she was always being bullied by him.

How did you understand that?—From Mrs. Carew herself.

"Refuse first on these grounds, and * * * if not, on the grounds of his relation to her," did that arise from your own knowledge, and if so, whence did this knowledge arise?—From Mrs. Carew.

Is this exhibit a letter written by you?—Yes.

And addressed to Mrs. Carew?—Yes.

There was one letter read of Mrs. Carew to you, were all the others addressed by you to Mrs. Carew?—Yes.

Witness then read:—
"Never mind my coming in to dinner. I shan't feel hurt if I am left out of your parties. Nothing he can do will hurt my feelings now. It is worse for you than me to hear all his

abuse. I am only afraid that he may say something rude to me before others, and I shan't be quietly under that. Only you would be treated worse than ever if we came to an open row again. I will leave the office early before twelve and come straight down. If you care to take a stroll along the road to me, if not wet, well and good. I shall—the office at a quarter to twelve. I tear the half-sheet off and jot down points re your will. Are you coming to the Bank to-morrow? Good-night, sweet, and take care of yourself."

"Yours always, dear,

"H.

"I would go and see Litchfield some time before he gets into a busy season. Fear all this up when you have taken a note of it. The notes re the will I mean. Of course you destroy letters."

To whom does "he"—refer to there?—To Mr. Carew, the husband.

And his abuse?—Again his abuse of myself.

When you speak of "coming to an open row again," to what does that refer?—To the quarrel I have already mentioned.

I think that you said that was the only quarrel between you?—Yes. We of course had little differences, but no quarrel.

You speak of, "I jot down points re your will," to whom do you refer?—Mrs. Carew's will.

Can you fix any date—can you fix the date of the letter you are going to read now, approximately?—Yes: this was written by me to Mrs. Carew about the 8th or 9th October.

Witness read—

"I think he was only bluffing this morning when he spoke about going in to ask—your a/c. Can you send me a line re your note to Litchfield to me—Jackson's by the messenger? I want to know if you arranged an interview."

"H.

"To-morrow and Friday are both likely to be mail days, so do not miss to-day if possible."

Witness—This letter must have been written on Wednesday.

The note to Litchfield, that you speak of there, had you seen it?—I had only heard of it.

By letter or by?—I cannot say.

Exhibits sigma, upsilon, and xi—Would you look at those three and see if they form part of one letter or not?—I think they are all portions of one letter written by me to Mrs. Carew.

Would you read them now?

Witness read—

"Grown tired of you is good, but not to my thinking strong enough. However, you will know best what you can write. I call his treatment of you brutal. Not stand much in the way of your going home, I am not sure of this. When he finds his money supplies ceasing, I think he will object."

"Ask Litchfield on Monday if in the event of your getting away with or without his consent if he can force you to return to him, and if you find he has such a power then I should tell Mr. L. the real state of affairs, how it is impossible for you to really live with him as a wife and your real wishes on the subject. That any wire they might send you you would make arrangements about. Can you do this? when you next write say that if they wire they must address fully Mrs. Carew, 169, Bluff, Yokohama. It would only cost 10/- or 12/- more and the expense is nothing when compared with the importance of your receiving the message. Otherwise I can think of nothing that I wished you to write about."

"I hope you said the £100 which Carew had written for was done absolutely without your authority, and that to say it was for you was simply a falsehood. It is obtaining money under false pretences, and I should like you to refer to this in your next letter and say that any money he asks for of yours is deserving only of one name. I know you have said this less mildly, but there is no harm in impressing them with the importance of it. If you succeed in thoroughly impressing them with the fact that all the use he now has for you is your money, otherwise he is thoroughly tired of you and is treating you worse than any of his servants, they will wake up to the fact of his being a scoundrel and a mercenary one."

What do the words "grown tired of you" refer to?—These were my comments on the letter which she told me she had written home, and

of which she professed to send me a skeleton or outline.

And "grown tired of you" referred to whom?—That he had grown tired of her.

I put the same question to you, "his treatment," to what does "his" refer?—Mr. Carew.

And what treatment?—His treatment of Mrs. Carew.

And where did you hear of this?—From Mrs. Carew.

And when you refer to "ask Litchfield on Monday," to what do you refer?—I think that referred to a wish of Mrs. Carew to go home. I wished it, and urged it.

Why?—Because I thought if she went home and returned in a year or two, she would find her home happier.

"Any wire they might send"—to whom does "they" refer?—Her people at home.

And what "wire"?—I cannot quite recollect, but I believe she was expecting a wire from home.

And referring to "the £100 which Mr. Carew had written for," was that of your own knowledge?—No, Mrs. Carew had told me of this.

You say, "if you succeed in thoroughly impressing them that he is tired of you and that the only use he has for you is for your money"—to whom do you refer?—That refers to Mr. Carew. I never saw any ill-treatment of Mrs. Carew by him.

You say, "a scoundrel and a mercenary one"—to whom do you refer?—A mercenary one because I understood he was endeavouring to get control of all her money. I understood that from her.

The Court then adjourned. On resuming on the 14th the examination of Mr. Dickinson was continued. He read exhibit pi as follows:—

"I will come to church with Mrs. Jackson and we will all walk up together if possible."

He said that was a letter written by himself to Mrs. Carew. The following, marked "omnion," was also written by witness to Mrs. Carew:—

"Say you do not know in the least about what steps he will take to get your money, but that it is your wish that none of yours be any more sent out to him on any account. Ask Litchfield to hurry up with the will, * do not over hurry him and tell him you want a copy and that the original is to go home."

In the first part "he" and "him" referred to Mr. Carew. In the latter part it referred to Mr. Litchfield. Witness next read exhibit tau:—

"You have not said * £150 you drew he is doing his very * out of you by both threats and cajolery."

"Note 2."

"Be your suggestion that the Bank would wire out the credit or permission for you to draw on your father. This can of course be done easily enough, but it would be necessary to instruct the Bank (and in writing) that you have written to your father to this effect and that in the event of any such credit coming out from our London office either by wire or letter care is to be taken that the advice be sent to you and not to your husband. Such a letter would be best addressed privately."

Mr. Wilkinson—After the word "privately" there is a piece torn off?—Yes.

And the next word is?—"Jackson."

"* Jackson you should ask him to treat the—quest in all confidence. I will draw up a letter for you before I go to Kobe."

Can you fix the date of this letter?—I can't fix it, but probably it was during the week before I left for Kobe.

Which you have mentioned was Sunday the?—Sunday, the 18th October.

Witness next read the following, marked kappa:—

"I should think you might ask for the letters. I should do so without hesitation. Ask L if you like, but I should go and do it. I think I will come up as arranged to the house, if I see the usual signal. I could also look in after tiffin perhaps, though I am not certain re this. I should go and ask for the letters, taking care, however, no strangers are near you."

He could not say whether there was an "s" in the word "letters," it might be a badly written "s" or the tail of the "r" drawn out.

What was the letter or letters referred to there?—It was either a letter or letters that

Mrs. Carew had said her husband had written to some one care of the post office.

Did Mrs. Carew say who that person was?—Mrs. Carew said the letter was addressed to A. L. and M. J.

His Lordship—Do you mean one letter to A. L. and one to M. J.?—I understood that the whole address was A. L. M. J., whether there was one or many.

Mr. Wilkinson—Did she say why she wanted them?—No. She merely asks this question, can she go and get them.

Was that in her letter?—Yes.

What has become of that letter?—I destroyed it. All her letters I destroyed; I never kept any of them.

Was there anything in her letter that made you so urgent in repeating it twice—as to the contents of the letter, etc.?—No. I had no idea of the contents of the letter. I merely told her to go and get it as she seemed anxious to get it.

Where was she to go to?—To the post office.

Was that the query in her letter?—Yes.

And you put in "taking care no strangers are near you"—to whom do you refer there that makes you put in such a remark?—The word stranger would refer to the person to whom the letter was addressed—A. L. M. J.—that was the person I referred to; I thought that in the event of her being there for the letter she would notice.

What do you mean by the "if I see the usual signal"?—Mrs. Carew used to hang up a handkerchief in a certain window, that I could see from the house where I was staying at, and from the road, and it was to let me know whether I could go in and see her.

Mr. Wilkinson—Can you fix any date when that letter was probably written?—Probably it was written after the 10th, probably on the 12th.

Is that letter, etc., in your handwriting, and to whom was it written?—To Mrs. Carew.

Will you read it please?

Witness read:—

"It will be necessary to be quite in accord with each other, on broad questions we must be able to answer alike. You first wrote to me about the money—writing to the man you could best entrust with some of your unhappiness. Money was a necessity, and it was a very natural thing to come to me about it. This of course led to my advising you how to get it, and as the money proved a source of much anxiety to yourself on account of his attempts to get it, I often saw you at your house. If ever questioned re meeting on the hills, we must admit it of course, as our meetings were for the purpose of talking generally over what was the best course to take as regards yourself. We met on no particular hills, mind, and never mention the fortifications—it is too near the cottage, and if possible that should be kept out of it. We sometimes rode and sometimes walked. But our hill meetings have been so infrequent that it should be difficult to make any point against you."

"Our meeting places for the one or two occasions when we did meet must be the Tea-house near the steep hill or by the Race Course."

"We have rested of course it was easier to talk matters over thus, but as often as not did not rest. The reason of our secret meeting was the double one of the (1) necessity of keeping the money matters from your husband (2) our mutual dislike of each other. We have met as friends, and I am and have been always a good friend and nothing more, and the sense that you had some one here whom (to some small extent) you could take into your confidence was a great comfort to you."

Mr. Wilkinson—Whom do "each other" and "our mutual dislike of each other" refer to?—Mr. Carew and myself.

Witness then read:—

"I know nothing of the legal proceedings. You can say of course I recommended going to a lawyer in case your husband proved too difficult to manage about the money."

Now will you look at this fragment; does that follow on—is it a part of the same letter or memorandum?—I think most probably it does.

Well, read it.

Witness read:—

"Nothing more. As regards the not having taken proceedings before of course say you hoped things would improve. They have got worse, however, hence your compulsion."

"Your note with the cap has disturbed me very much, it makes me dread to think of what you may be subjected to, please be so careful not to drive him into any violent act. He shall be punished, but that would be but a small compensation for any harm done you."

"You must tell L about last night, and say that you really cannot say when you may be compelled to leave him from fear of personal violence. Ask his advice as to what you can do if you should ever get frightened. It will cause him to hurry up with the case any way. It is quite clear to me now. At all risks, at all hazards, Divorce. Your personal safety is of more importance to us all than any scandals, and then you have your children. If you succeed in proving the necessity for divorce you will have no trouble in convincing the Court of the unfitness of your husband to have the care of the children. You will then always have the comfortable feeling of having done rightly by the two little beings for whose lives you are responsible. Now and always I will help you in all things if you want me, as I know you do, and be with you while I may. Keep up your heart, my dear one, and do not give in now under his cruelty and coarseness. If you are offered personal violence you must appeal to your brother and servants for immediate help, and go to your lawyer for further guidance. Send for me whenever you may need me. Burn all this when you have read it and learnt the early part."

Mr. Wilkinson—With reference to that last part, "If you succeed in proving the necessity for divorce, you will, I think, have no trouble in convincing the Court of the unfitness of your husband to have the care of the children"—with regard to that, did she ever tell you that she had had interviews with Mr. Litchfield on the subject of divorce?—Yes.

What did she say?—She gave me accounts of two interviews that she said she had had.

Can you tell us what that conversation was?—At the first she said that Mr. Litchfield seemed very unsympathetic and not inclined to take it up; but offered his services as a mediator. On the second occasion she said Mr. Litchfield had said that if she could prove one half of what she alleged she had ample grounds for divorce.

Was that letter written by you when you were animated by the expressions and terms used in it—honestly animated by the expressions and terms used in it?—Yes, certainly. That letter was written in the middle of the last week, when I believed she had seen Mr. Litchfield.

His Lordship—What last week?—The week before I went to Kobe—the week ending the 17th October.

And those beliefs were entertained from something communicated to you by whom?—Both communicated and told me by Mrs. Carew.

When you say communicated you mean wrote to you?—Yes.

You refer to a note "with a cap," can you explain that circumstance?—I had been dining with Mrs. Carew and her brother, and when I went away I took a wrong cap. When I found my mistake, I wrote Mrs. Carew asking for my cap, and it drew forth the letter just read.

Mr. Wilkinson—I am requested by my learned friend to make an admission, my Lord.

His Lordship—Wait a moment, then I will hear it.

Mr. Wilkinson—In theta there is an expression, "If you succeed in proving the necessity for a divorce," etc. I am asked by my learned friend to admit that Mrs. Carew never applied to Mr. Litchfield on that subject at all; and in response to that request I make the admission: she never applied to him either with regard to the divorce or to the unfitness of Mrs. Carew's husband to have the care of the children.

His Lordship—It is an allied question.

Mr. Wilkinson—Does "your note with the cap," assist you to fix the date?—It was either the 13th or 14th that the letter with the cap came. It was answered probably the same day. I hand you lammas will you read it—was it written by you and to whom?—To Mrs. Carew.

Witness read:—

"love you. I think of you always. I can not give you up now. Time separation,

circumstances may in the future change us. Let us wait for the— to develop—and decide these things for—

It is 12 and—I must go on the Hill and I cannot decide say we meet all as friends leave it for me to decide. It were to part altogether, but it can not sweet, and I do not wish it. Let us talk it out again, not write, for I cannot write any more.

Mr. Wilkinson—I now hand you phi:

Witness read—

"You write * suggested?—ush! to come in if I may for a—shall walk down to the J's, stable—* * for you at the window of your vera—that or the old signal. H.V.D."

The old signal there is the same as that referred to previously?—Yes.

Now with the exception of the one letter, which you stated was in Mrs. Carew's handwriting, were all those other letters letters written by you to Mrs. Carew?—Yes.

You left for Kobe on Sunday, the 18th?—I did.

Were you anxious at that time for any one and if so, for whom?—I was of course feeling very anxious for Mrs. Carew.

On what grounds?—I thought her home was not a safe one for her. She had lead me to suppose that at any moment some violence would be done to her by her husband, and I was afraid for her.

When you were in Kobe did you receive any communications from Mrs. Carew?—I received some letters and telegrams.

One telegram?—No, two.

What was in those Kobe letters—were they destroyed?—Yes. I could not possibly tell you what was in the letters, they were on ordinary subjects, general subjects.

Can you tell us the dates?—All were written in that week. She wrote on Sunday, and I think she wrote on Monday—I am not sure of Monday—but she wrote on Tuesday, I think.

Do you know the dates of the telegrams?—Yes, on Wednesday, the 21st Oct. Both telegrams were received on the 21st.

You have an envelope, have you not, from Mrs. Carew?—Yes.

How did it come that you had it?—I used the envelope to put into a window to prevent it from rattling.

Do you remember the Regatta Day?

Witness—It was on the 10th October.

Mr. Wilkinson—When did you see Mrs. Carew on that day.

Witness—I saw Mrs. Carew just before tiffin, and also at the boat-house.

Mr. Wilkinson—The only question that I have now to put to witness is upon the subject of these telegrams. I have made an application to this Court for the production of the originals, but they have not been produced, and I wish to prove that they cannot be produced.

A long discussion ensued from which it appeared that there were legal difficulties in the way, of procuring the copies of the telegrams from the Japanese authorities, but his Lordship made a suggestion as to an application that might be made for that purpose, and the point stood over.

Mr. Wilkinson said he would do so. (To witness)—These letters that you read to-day—what was your impression with regard to them—at the time of the inquest, did you know that they were in existence?—At the time of the inquest I did not know of their existence.

What was your impression in regard to them?—I was under the impression that Mrs. Carew had burnt all my letters as she received them.

Had you any conversation with her on the subject of the burning of them or destruction of them?—No, not as to their destruction. I expressed my surprise to Mrs. Carew when they were produced.

Did you ever ask her if they were destroyed?—Yes, she always said that she had destroyed them all.

You were speaking of conversations?—Yes. While the correspondence was going on she said that she always destroyed them. I said to her after the inquest, after some had been discovered, I understand that you have been putting my letters into the waste paper basket. She said she had burnt all the compromising letters.

Did you subsequently receive a letter from her about these letters?—Yes.

Did you destroy that?—Yes.

Will you state as clearly as you can the substance of it?—My recollection is not clear; but she first expressed regret as to their not being destroyed, and then hinted that they had not all been written to her.

You stated to-day that they were all written by you—are you quite positive on the point?—Yes, all the letters shown to me yesterday and to day were written by me to her.

I think you said that the letters received in Kobe were not on anything particular?—On general topics. In one she incidentally mentioned that her husband was ill—she did not lay particular stress on it.

Can your tax your memory in regard to the date?—I received it on Wednesday.

Mr. Wilkinson—That is all I have to ask.

In answer to His Lordship, Mr. Lowder said he would put the words of the telegram, of which so much had been heard, into the witness's mouth.

Mr. Lowder (to witness)—I suggest to you that the words of the telegram that you received in Kobe were these?—"When do you return have sent Baelz most serious"?—No, I do not think so: they were not those words.

You told us this morning—

His Lordship—You understand, Mr. Lowder, that the examination-in-chief is suspended, the evidence of the telegrams is to be taken later.

Mr. Wilkinson—That is so, my Lord.

Mr. Lowder—So I understand. (To witness)—Can you tell me what you think were the words of that telegram?—"When do you return Baelz says most serious"—or very serious, as far as I recollect.

When did you receive that telegram?—On the Wednesday afternoon, after the cricket match was finished, between 2 and 3 o'clock.

You told us this morning that Mrs. Carew—

His Lordship—Just a moment, was this the first of the telegrams?—Yes, the first.

Mr. Lowder—You told us this morning that you advised Mrs. Carew to go to the post office for a letter bearing the address A.L.M.J.?—I said she asked my advice about going there.

Did she tell you that she had not obtained that letter?—Yes.

Did she tell you she had gone to get it at her husband's desire or at his request?—No.

Now the recommendation as to obtaining a divorce originated with yourself, did it not?—Yes, it originated with myself.

Was that advice given with an ultimate view of a marriage between yourself and Mrs. Carew?—No. It was given because I thought—I had been lead to believe by Mrs. Carew—that there was so much ill-treatment and cruelty at home that I believed that it was unsafe for her to live longer with him.

A marriage between you and herself was never alluded to in any shape or form?—That is so.

You are not a position to marry, even if you wished?—No.

His Lordship—Pecuniarily?

Mr. Lowder—No, it is one of the rules of the Bank?—It is understood to be a rule. No one under the rank of an accountant can marry without permission.

And that permission would only be given in case that you had sufficient provision to marry upon?—Yes, that permission would not be given if I had not sufficient means.

Was that known to Mrs. Carew?—It is generally known. I have no recollection of specially telling her, but it is a thing generally known and probably it was known to her.

You said that you remembered the regatta-day, 16th October, do you remember seeing Mrs. Carew that day at the boat-house?—Yes.

Did she mention receiving a mysterious visitor that day?—Yes.

Did she mention it to others?—Not in my hearing.

Did she not mention it to her husband?—No, not in my hearing.

After your return from Kobe, did you see her?—Yes.

Shortly after her husband's death?—Yes.

Did her husband's death appear to have shocked her?—She appeared quite dazed at the time I saw her—that was the day after the death.

Do you remember having a conversation with Mr. Carew, some time ago, about his taking arsenic?—The only time I recollect talking to Mr. Carew about arsenic was many years ago.

His Lordship—What do you mean by many years?—Just now you said many, and it turned out to be two years. This was after 1890, I presume?—I think it was in 1891. Mr. Carew told me that once, while living in the Straits, he nearly died from from the effects of an accidental overdose of arsenic.

Mr. Lowder—I do not wish to unnecessarily mention names, my Lord, but I will ask you, was there not an intimate friend of the family, who used to be called "the ferret," by Mr. and Mrs. Carew?—I believe there was: I know there was.

He was so nicknamed by Mr. Carew himself? I could not say that: it was their nickname for him.

He was on very intimate terms with the accused, was he not?—I think so.

There was another gentleman called the "ice-cream vendor" or the "organ-grinder"?—I know of the "organ-grinder."

He was also on very intimate terms with accused?—Yes.

Your nickname was "the youth," was it not?—Mr. Carew used to call me "youth," but not latterly.

The deceased allowed his wife the greatest latitude, I believe?—Certainly, I can say he did.

I mean in the selection of her male friends?—Yes.

He was fond of sailing, she of riding?—Yes.

She generally rode with her male friends?—She often rode with them.

I think you testified on a former occasion that on the day of the funeral, you were standing in Water-street, near the Club gates?—Yes.

There were some signs of the funeral about?—Yes; there were some stands of flowers being carried in and set up near the billiard-room.

And you saw a woman standing there?—Yes, near the Water-street entrance of the Club. As a matter of fact, I was walking in Water-street and was near the gate.

Will you describe her appearance: how was she dressed?—I described her at the inquest, and my recollection will not serve me now, beside the fact that she was quietly dressed.

Mr. Lowder (in answer to his Lordship)—I will put the words into his mouth, if you wish.

His Lordship, however, read the description of the woman as given at the inquest by Mr. Dickinson, and afterwards was requested by counsel to make a note of it upon the record.

His Lordship—That description is correct?—That is correct.

The witness was then shown several letters which he identified as being in the handwriting of Mrs. Carew. They were letters addressed to her husband from Miyanoahita and were written in affectionate and cheerful terms.

Mr. Wilkinson—I have no re-examination.

His Lordship—Can you tell me the hour you returned from Kobe?—I saw Mrs. Carew at 6 o'clock.

Is that the time you refer when you say she was dazed?—Yes.

Mr. Patterson (one of the jurymen)—Your Honour, the witness has testified that he had a serious quarrel with Mr. Carew in the year 1894, does he remember what it was about?

His Lordship (to witness)—Do you remember what was the cause?—Yes.

And what about?—Yes.

Mr. Patterson—Had it reference to the witness's relations with the accused?

Witness—None, whatever.

Miss Christoffel was next examined and gave evidence as to receiving the scraps of paper from Miss Jacob and stitching them together.

She produced two additional fragments which she had found in her box. In cross-examination she admitted writing the following, unsigned and addressed to a gentleman:—"why! why will you go down that hill to-night for your own sake—keep away from that place—laugh—call this the produce of a mad woman—I dare say she has gone mad or she would not humiliate herself down to the dust—for a man—was alone my friend shall never know any thing about this."

"Sunday night."

His Lordship, not catching all that was read, had the last three lines repeated, and then remarked: "Nothing turns on this, I suppose?" Mr. Lowder: "I am not suggesting that this witness wrote the A.L. letters."

The trial on continued on the 15th. Mrs. Carew looked very ill and completely exhausted. Miss Christoffel's cross-examination was continued.

In re-examination it transpired that the anonymous letter mentioned the previous day was written to Mr. Norman Walter.

Mr. Wilkinson, reading: "Why did you go down that hill for your own sake?" what hill was that?—It was the hill reaching from No. 160 down No. 169.

Had you seen him go down that hill?—Yes. Just state the circumstances. What time was it?—It was about ten o'clock at night on Sunday, the 25th October.

How did you happen to be there at that time of night?—I was delivering a note written by Miss Jacob to Mrs. Carew.

Did you take it yourself to the house?—No, I stopped at the top of the hill and sent my two *jinrikisha*-men to deliver the letter.

Had they come back when you saw Mr. Walter?—No, they were down at the house when he passed.

You say, "Keep away from that place;" what place do you mean?—No. 169.

Did you speak to Mr. Walter at the time?—No, I have never spoken to him.

His Lordship: You were asked if you spoke to him at the time, and you answered that you never spoke to him at any time.

Witness: No, I have never spoken to him.

Mr. Wilkinson: When you say, "Call this the product of a mad woman," who do you refer to there?—To myself.

Mr. Wilkinson, reading, "I dare say she has gone mad," did you feel like that at the time?—I felt that I was doing something that I hardly believed I could do: I mean in writing that note.

Mr. C. D. Moss, clerk of the court, gave evidence as to the custody of the exhibits and as to the loss of one of them at the preliminary examination of the prisoner and its subsequent recovery.

A coolie who took a message to Maruya's and an assistant of Maruya's were then called with reference to the delivery of a bottle of Fowler's solution of arsenic.

Mr. James Troup, H.B.M. Consul and assistant Judge, gave evidence as to presiding at the preliminary examination of the prisoner and to the fact of one of the exhibits being missed.

Mrs. Martha Hodges gave evidence as to searching the prisoner and finding the missing exhibit in her cuff.

Mr. Troup was then recalled and read his notes of Mrs. Carew's evidence given at the Magisterial examination of Miss Jacob on the charge brought against her by Mr. Lowder of murdering Mr. Carew.

The case was then adjourned until the 20th January.

Under the heading of "A dastardly canard" the *Kobe Chronicle* has the following:—

Reuter wired on the 14th that:

"A Dalziel telegram published here (London) states that the Carew murder trial at Yokohama has terminated. Miss Jacob has confessed to the poisoning of Mr. Carew and to writing the mysterious letters."

It is inconceivable that this can be due to any misinterpretation of the telegram in Dalziel's office, and every honest and fair-minded person will desire that this dastardly canard is not dismissed by a mere denial, however emphatically expressed, but that the author of it will be publicly named and punished in the manner he richly deserves. We cannot believe that any accredited journalist has been guilty of such an outrage, and if the telegram has been sent by a person other than a duly accredited agent it will be but adding another mystery to the remarkable case it concerns. Reuter's agent at Yokohama, it is satisfactory to learn, promptly wired home a contradiction. A reward of \$500 has been offered in Yokohama for information as to the authorship of the telegram.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS"]

SHANGHAI, 19th January.
In the Carew case Mr. Mason, the expert in handwriting, in his evidence expressed the distinct opinion that the prisoner wrote the Annie Luke letters. He was positive that Miss Jacob's handwriting was different.

[SHANGHAI, 20th January.
The case for the Crown is closed except the evidence of Miss Jacob and a letter to Sir E. M. Satow, the Minister.

Miss Jacob is seriously ill, pulse 116, heart 132.
SHANGHAI, 21st January.

In the Carew case at Yokohama to-day a letter to the Minister, Sir E. M. Satow, signed "A. L. Price" was read and the defence admitted that the prisoner was the writer.

The case for the Crown is closed.
The defence opens on Saturday.

THE CASE AGAINST MISS JACOB.

A startling development in the Carew poisoning case was reached on Sunday, 10th January. At half-past two o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Geo. Hodges, of H.M. Consular gaoi, accompanied by a turnkey and Mr. E. McCance, Deputy Marshal of the U.S. Consulate-General, proceeded to Miss Brittan's house, No. 2, Bluff, where Miss Jacob has been residing since she left Mrs. Carew's service on the 24th October last. Mr. Hodges was armed with a warrant from the British Court for the arrest of Mary Esther Jacob on the charge of murdering Walter Raymond Hallowell Carew (on the 22nd October, 1896. Miss Brittan being a citizeness of the United States of America, a warrant of permission to enter the premises at No. 2, Bluff, had to be issued by the U.S. Consul-General, and Mr. McCance was accordingly present to see that Mr. McIvor's commands, that no obstacles should be placed in the way of the law officers of the Crown, were carried out. Miss Jacob's room and effects were searched. Miss Jacob was taken at once to the British Consular Gaoi and there she remained till brought up on Monday morning at 8.45 o'clock.

On Mr. James Troup, the Assistant Judge, taking his seat on the Bench,

Mr. George Hodges read the following:—
"Regina on the prosecution of John Frederick Lowder versus Mary Esther Jacob, charges on oath that she on the 22nd October did murder one Walter Raymond Hallowell Carew."

His Honour:—Do you appear in person, Mr. Lowder?

Mr. Lowder:—I appear in person, not professionally, but as a member of this community who considers it his duty to prefer this charge.

Mr. Scidmore:—I appear in the interest of the prisoner.

Mr. Litchfield:—Although this case is not instituted in this Court by the Crown, I appear to watch the case on behalf of the Crown.

Mr. Lowder then addressed his Honour, reading the "Annie Luke" letters and other papers, suggesting that they were written by Miss Jacob. He said that the accused entered the service of Mr. and Mrs. Carew in 1895 and left it on the 24th October, 1896. Mr. Carew died on October 22nd, 1896, after a week's illness. He read the letter dated October 10th written by Mrs. Carew and sent to her husband telling him that a most mysterious lady had come and asked to see him. Mrs. Carew said she told her that Mr. Carew was not in, and that the mysterious lady said she would call again early in the evening, as she must see him. A letter dated October 13th, addressed to Mr. Carew and signed "Annie" was also read. The inquest was opened on the 24th, and on the 29th, before the inquest closed, another anonymous letter was found on the front doorstep of Mrs. Carew's house, which said: "Beware! dare to speak one word of the truth and you shall never leave Japan alive." The letter was not signed, but it was apparently in the same handwriting as that signed "Annie." On the 1st November, Mr. Lowder said, the writer of these letters would seem to have been overcome by remorse for the injury and mischief she had done and she wrote three letters all signed with the initials "A.L." to Mrs. Carew, to himself (Mr. Lowder), and to Mr. J. C. Hall respectively. After reading these letters, which have already been published, Mr. Lowder proceeded:—

"On the 6th November the inquest was concluded, and on 7th November I offered by advertisement in the public papers a reward for the identification of the writer or writers of these letters, as a suspicion was entertained that Mrs. Carew had herself written them. That advertisement remained in the papers certainly until the 11th if not longer—well, beyond the 11th. On the 11th November I received another letter with the initials "A.L." I will read you that letter:—

Mr. Lowder,

"It never occurred to you did it that "my way" to join him might be by the French mail, it never occurred to you did it that I can disguise myself as well as my name, it never occurred to you did it that you never could and never would find me. Who am I and what is my name eh? Is it A.L. or M.J. or was I during my stay in Yokohama passing under some other name, eh?"

"A.L.!!

"—LOWDER, Esquire,
"Wright's Hotel,
"Yokohama."

It has "11th November" on the envelope, and I received it on 11th November. Now, on the 25th October the accused wrote to Mrs. Carew in reply to a letter which Mrs. Carew had written to her. The contents of the letter are not of so much importance, but I will read it, as I intend to put it in:—

[The letter, which was dated Sunday, October 25th, and began "Dear Mrs. Carew," said in reply to the note that the writer had received from Mr. Lowder that evening, that she regarded her engagement in Mrs. Carew's employ to be at an end. If Mrs. Carew had any questions to ask, the writer would answer them if put through Mr. Lowder, Mrs. Carew's counsel. In reply to the message sent her by Mr. Lowder, asking her to take Mrs. Carew's children to Kamakura for a week the writer said she did not intend to leave Yokohama at present, but if Mrs. Carew would send them to her "here," it would make her very happy to have them with her. The letter was signed "yours truly, Mary E. Jacob."]

There is another letter, undoubtedly in her handwriting—the accused's handwriting—addressed to the mother of Mrs. Carew, Mrs. Porch. It bears the date 7th February, 1895. I put it in merely for the sake of the handwriting. It is not necessary to read it. Now I shall submit to your Honour that the handwriting on the envelope of the letter which I received on 11th November, more particularly the name "Lowder," cannot be distinguished from the word "Lowder" which appears no less than three times in the first page of the letter of 25th October. I shall also prove by Mr. Porch, who is the brother of Mrs. Carew, that recently he found in the nursery a birthday book, on the first page of which is written the name of the accused, "E. M. Jacob, June 28, '84," and he will tell you that between the leaves of that book a few days ago—last Friday, I think—he discovered this piece of paper. Upon it is written, first of all in italicised capitals "M. J." Then there is a printed "M. J." with a note of interrogation after it, and then the figures "1888." I shall ask your Honour to compare the printed "M. J." on this piece of paper with the "M. J." printed on the card which was enclosed to Mr. Carew by his wife. After that come the word "regular." What meaning to attach to it I don't know, but after that comes "A.L." first of all with the capital A written as a small "a," and the second "A.L." is in the usual way of writing "A" with an upstroke and then bringing it down. Underneath is written "Dearest Walter" and under that "My own dear Mr. Lowder" is almost too light to be legible. And after that come four capital letters "D. D. D. D." and the word "Jacob." I shall ask you to compare the second "A.L." on this paper with the "A.L." which is signed to the letter I received on 11th November, and I shall ask you to compare the first "A.L." with the "A.L." signed to the three letters addressed respectively to Mrs. Carew, Mr. Hall, and myself, and which I have not now before me. I will also ask you to compare the word "Jacob" appearing on this paper with the signature of the letter of 25th October, and I think you will come to the conclusion that they must have been written

by one and the same hand. Moreover, both the L's on that small piece of paper are, I shall submit, identical with the L in the word "Lowder" which appears three times in the letter. The words "Dearest Walter" and "own" are evidently an imitation of the handwriting of Mrs. Carew. Two other pieces of paper will be produced. They were found in the nursery some time ago under circumstances which will be given in evidence. The writer evidently on these pieces of paper is practising the handwriting of Mrs. Carew. She writes "Edith," "Walter," "Dickinson," "Hallowell," "D.D.E.E.E." and the word "Carew" several times. But she has not succeeded so well in disguising her hand that one form of the "Carew" can be at all distinguished from the word "Carew," appearing in the beginning of her letter of 25th October. If they are put together you will see that there is absolutely no difference between them. Next, I shall produce a leaf from the chit-book of Mrs. Hutchison, on which is recorded the fact that two letters were addressed to Mrs. Carew. The one I shall show to be the signature of Mrs. Carew herself. It runs thus, "Ansd. E. H. C." The other is signed "M. J. for E. H. C." and it will be submitted that the two are almost indistinguishable. Another slip containing Mr. Carew's initials will also be submitted for comparison. Now the letter signed "Elith" is certainly written by Mrs. Carew, and that which is signed "Annie," though not written by Mrs. Carew, is written on a half sheet of paper bearing the same water-mark as that which is signed by Mrs. Carew in the name of Edith. I gather so, as I have not examined them myself, but it has been so stated. They may therefore have been written from the same house but by different persons. One of these persons, Mary Jacob, left the house on the 24th October. I have not looked at the water-mark of the two letters of 25th of October and 1st of November, but I have looked at the water-mark on the letter of 11th November, which is in my possession, and that letter is not on the same paper as the two letters signed, one "Annie" and the other "Edith." Therefore, it is possible that the first two letters signed "Annie" and "Edith," were written by different persons from the same house, and the others signed "Annie" from a different house and consequently on different paper. Before leaving the question of handwriting I would call attention to other similarities. I have already called attention to the word "Lowder" on the envelope of 11th November and its similarity to the "Lowder" in the letter of 25th October. There are the words "Wright's Hotel." The "ght's" on the envelope, I shall submit, cannot be distinguished from the "gh's" to be found in the letters undoubtedly written by the accused. Then there is in this letter of 11th November, to me, the word "find," and if your Honour will take the trouble, as you will have to by and by, to look through all these letters, you will find it to be a characteristic of the handwriting of the writer always to form the "f" like the long old-fashioned "s"; that is, when they come to the bottom of the letter, instead of carrying it to the right, to carry it to the left; and that is a characteristic of all the letters written by Miss Jacob—of 25th October and 7th February, 1895. In the letters signed "Annie," which I have not before me, but which will be put in evidence, the "f's" are those of Miss Jacob. "Find" occurs twice, and is with the usual "f" of accused. She has found some difficulty in making the "f," and has rather bungled it. "Yokohama" on the envelope seems rather like "Yokohama" in the letter to me. "For" occurs twice and "if" once, and I shall call attention to the "f." The "Beware" letter, I shall submit, resembles the writing of accused. The word "Yokohama" on the envelope is the same as on the envelope to me. The word "Bluff" on the envelope is very similar to the word "Bluff" appearing in the letter of 25th October; but the writer, making the first "f" in the usual way, has endeavoured, though not successfully, to disguise the second "f." She seems to have always had some difficulty in curing herself of the habit of writing the "f" in the usual way. The same difficulty appears in the letter "I have done what I can for you." I have already

called attention to the different ways of writing "A.L." but throughout these anonymous letters your Honour will find unmistakably that the "d's" are the "d's" of the accused, and your Honour will also find that the "er's" are particularly throughout almost undisguised. That is, without going into great detail, the nature of the evidence that will be given as to the handwriting. There was in the employment of Mr. and Mrs. Carew a person of the name of Rachael Grier. It will be testified that in August last she first saw Mary Jacob copying and practising Mrs. Carew's handwriting. The first time she saw her doing so she was using ink; on all other occasions it was with a pencil. The second time Jacob was thus employed she had evidently been writing letters. The letter she had been writing was laid on one side, and she was copying some writing of Mr. Carew's written across a half sheet of paper. The third time she was similarly employed she was at the table with some work beside her. She was writing with a copy before her. All three occasions were before the 26th September, 1896, on which date Mrs. Carew, with her husband and children, went to Miyanoshta. Soon after their return from Miyanoshta early in October Rachael remembers seeing Jacob at work with a copy. The last time Rachael saw her was one evening as she was passing through the nursery—to go to a small dressing-room adjoining. Jacob was at the table with an envelope before her on which she was writing. In passing, Rachael read Edith — and below again Edith —. The Edith she read but not the following words, and noticed that the writing was just like Mrs. Carew's. Jacob was doing this without any writing as a copy before her; on this occasion she was not practising. On coming out of the dressing-room Rachael saw Jacob in the act of putting the envelope away into a little leather bag. Rachael says the envelope was a size larger than any used by Mrs. Carew. On the following afternoon Rachael had occasion to again go into the dressing-room. Jacob was at the table with the same litter-bag near her. Rachael noticed her tear an envelope across and put it into the bag mentioned. As she came out of the dressing-room Jacob said, "Rachael, come here; I want to show you something." She went to the bag and brought one-half of the envelope she had torn across and said, "See what Mrs. Carew does in mischief." She then got out the other half and pieced them together. Rachael recognised the envelope she had seen her writing the previous evening. She read, "Edith—Dickinson, Edith—Easton, Edith—Carew." Rachael thinks there may have been another name and cannot state the order they were in. Jacob continued, "She has written this to see which she loves best. It is just like Mrs. Carew's handwriting; it must be her writing; you must think it her writing. What fun it would be to show it to Mr. Carew." The conclusion to be arrived at is, I shall submit to your Honour, that Mary Jacob is the writer of the "A.L." letters, in which case she stands self-accused of the murder of Mr. Carew. I omitted to mention also that I have a telegram in my possession relating to the character of the accused, which will probably render necessary the attendance of witnesses from home. It may be argued that the accused was not acquainted with Annie Luke. On that I would point out that there is nothing in the "A.L." letters alone to show that the writer was aware of Annie Luke. Annie Luke was the name attached by the deceased to the letters. "A.L." appeared on the card in his wife's letter to him. On the other hand it will be shown that the relations between the accused and the deceased were apparently of so intimate a nature that it is quite possible she may have heard the name of Annie Luke from him, or, as she came from the same part of the country, it may be that she was acquainted with the name of Annie Luke or that she knew Annie herself before she left home. That is shortly the nature of the case I shall present to you.

Mrs. Emma Mary Hutchison was called and gave evidence as to Miss Carew's handwriting and produced a chit book in which one of the entries was "M. J. for E. H. C." the handwriting being indistinguishable from that of Mrs. Carew.

Mr. Porch, Mrs. Carew's brother, gave evidence as to finding a birthday book in the nursery formerly occupied by Miss Jacob with the children. In the book he found a piece of paper on which was written—"M. J. M. J. 1888. Regular, A. L. Dearest Walter. My own D.D.D.D. Jacob."

The case was then adjourned until next day. On Tuesday morning (12th) when Miss Jacob was brought before the Assistant Judge it was noticed that she appeared quiet and confident, and evinced the keenest interest in the proceedings.

Mr. Hodges, the Consular Officer, deposed to arresting the accused and taking charge of the papers found in her room. He failed to remember some of the exhibits submitted to him. On Monday, he said, he handed the box containing the papers and writing found in the room, to Mr. Lowder, sealed and tied, according to the instructions he had received from his superior officer, and he informed Mr. Lowder that he was at liberty to break the seal and examine the documents.

Replying to Mr. Scidmore, who represented the accused, witness said that the box and its contents had since remained in Mr. Lowder's possession. The box contained a good number of other papers besides those produced in evidence. When he made his business known to Miss Jacob, she evinced considerable symptoms of trouble, but she appeared to be desirous of giving him every possible assistance in searching the room.

And she called your attention to some things which she thought you might overlook?—She did. She assisted me in the search practically.

From her manner did you gather that it was her desire that you should make a thorough and complete search and obtain all you had been sent for?—Yes.

At His Honour's direction the box and its contents were returned to the custody of the Court. Mr. Lowder said he had brought it with that intention.

Mr. Lowder gave evidence with a view to show that the contents of the box had been in no way tampered with while they were in his possession. He put in the letters signed "A. L." received by himself.

Mr. J. C. Hall swore to Miss Jacob's signature to her evidence in the Coroner's book.

Mrs. Carew, who had come into Court in charge of a gaol official shortly after the hearing commenced, was now put into the witness-box. She appeared in good spirits and gave her evidence clearly and coolly. She identified exhibits of the handwriting of herself and the accused. One letter produced, addressed to Mrs. Carew by Miss Jacob's mother, witness said she had received. Miss Jacob was fond of reading novels and the Library was accessible to her. Mr. Lowder read passages from Marie Correlli's "Romance of Two Worlds" in which occur the expression "Twin Soul"—"Thou shall love and be beloved for ever by thine own Twin Soul; wherever that spirit may be now, it must join thee hereafter."

Mrs. Carew said she had absolutely no reason from anything that came under her own observation to suspect any impropriety between the accused and Mr. Carew.

Mr. Scidmore cross-examined the witness at some length as to the visit of the "woman in black." She said she believed Miss Jacob was in the nursery with the children at the time of the visit.

Yokohama, 13th Jan.

The hearing of the charge against Miss Jacob has been adjourned till Monday, 25th January.

Mr. W. W. Till and F. S. James have become sureties for Miss Jacob. Public opinion here is strongly in her favour to-day.

Mr. Carmichael, the second engineer of the steamer *Nedusa*, was drowned at Bangkok on the night of the 5th January. Having been ashore he returned on board, went to his cabin, and put on his pyjamas. Coming out again to speak to one of the officers he was about to lean against the bulwark at the open gangway, but missing the corner he fell overboard. The body was recovered on the evening of the 7th and was interred on the 8th.

THE CHINESE POSTAL SERVICE.

The Shanghai Local Post Tariff has been fixed at so low a rate that the proposed charges by the Imperial Chinese Post seem at first sight excessive, but they bear comparison very well with the rates charged in other countries. The system of a uniform rate for the whole Chinese empire, whatever the distance, has been adhered to, the charges to all the open ports, including Hongkong, Macao, and Formosa, being:—

For letters not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce..... 2 cents
 For letters not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce..... 4 cents
 and 2 cents for every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
 For post cards, each..... 1 cent
 For Chinese newspapers, each $\frac{1}{2}$ cent
 For Foreign newspapers, each 1 cent
 For books, patterns, etc., etc., per 2 oz. 2 cents
 For registration 4 cents
 For registration return receipt 4 cents
 For parcels: first lb. 10 cents, each
 subsequent lb. 5 cents

The limit of weight of parcels is 11 lbs., and the limit of size 2 ft. by 1 ft. by 1 ft.

Domestic mail matter sent by overland courier to the North during the winter months is subject to the special tariff.

A note is added that in the postal currency \$1=1,000 cash; and we understand that the cents mentioned above are cents of a Mexican dollar.—N. C. Daily News.

HONGKONG.

The great social event of the week was the English ball which was given at the City Hall last Friday. It was generally pronounced one of the most gorgeous and enjoyable functions ever given in the colony. His Excellency the Governor made two important appearances in public this week. On the 20th inst. he opened the lecturing season of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society by delivering an excellent lecture at Government House on Charles Dickens, and on the 22nd inst. he distributed the prizes at Queen's College. The anniversary of Burns' birthday was celebrated by a concert at the City Hall on the 25th inst.

There were 4,219 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 218 were Europeans.

The entries for the Races have been published. For the Derby there are 23 entries and for the Challenge Cup 48.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Zoroastrian Charity Fund \$250.

The Registrar-General's returns of births and deaths for the fourth quarter of 1896 give the birth-rate for the British and Foreign community as 24.08 and the death rate as 25.91. Amongst the Chinese community the birth-rate was 3.61 and the death-rate 21.27.

The match between H.M.S. *Centurion* and the Hongkong Football Club in the shield competition was witnessed on the 21st January by an unusually large crowd. The spectators were treated to a capital game, which was, however, marred by two or three weak displays in front of goal which meant the loss of points to both sides. The first half was very keenly contested, the Club having rather the better of the game, but both teams at times passed particularly well, their great weakness being in front of goal. Neither side had scored when half time was called. The second portion of the game was all in favour of the sailors, but they could not once succeed in breaking down the Club's defence, and as the Club also failed to put the ball through extra time was played. Two minutes after the re-start the *Centurion* scored and the point was greeted with tremendous cheering by the man-of-war-men on the ground. The game, which had all through been fast, became faster still and the excitement increased when the Club put the ball through and made matters equal. In the last ten minutes the Club threw away a splendid chance of winning; a low swift shot would have won them the game, but the opportunity was not taken advantage of, the player missing and then muffing the ball. When the final whistle blew the game stood a draw, one goal each.

The Hon. Wu Ting-fang, the new Chinese Minister to the United States, arrived from the North on the 22nd January.

In the Rugby football match, The Club v. Navy, played at Happy Valley on Monday, the former obtained an easy victory, winning by seven goals to nil.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Tuesday, 2nd February, being the Chinese New Year's Day and a bank holiday, is to be observed as a holiday throughout the Government departments.

At the invitation of H.E. the Governor the remaining members of the committee which arranged the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee met at the Government Offices on Saturday to consider the steps to be taken for the celebration of the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign. The Hon. C. P. Chater occupied the chair. It was decided to recommend His Excellency to appoint a committee consisting of the members of the old Jubilee committee with a number of additions to ascertain the wishes of the community.

At 10.20 p.m. on the 18th January a fire broke out on the second floor of a piece goods shop at 138, Jervois Street. The fire brigade promptly responded to the alarm, but it was impossible to save the premises from complete destruction, as the fire quickly shot through the whole place and so the efforts of the men were in a large degree confined to preventing the spread of the flames to the adjoining houses. In this the firemen were successful and there was only a slight damage, which was occasioned by water, to Nos. 136 and 140. The premises were insured with Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. for \$5,000. The origin of the fire was the upsetting of a kerosine lamp.

The following telegram has been received at Singapore from Raub:—"The crushing for the two months ended January 9th has been completed, and shows that 2,400 tons of stone have been crushed, realising 1,806 ounces of smelted gold." The *Free Press* says:—This is an excellent wind up to the year's work, the average being almost as good as that of the preceding two months. To get 15 dwts. a ton out of two thousand four hundred tons at a time when, owing to the effect of floods, no stone was being sent to the mill from the Raub Hole lodes, shows that the big reefs at Bukit Koman, which were at first believed to afford quantity rather than quality, are now proving capable, without any "stiffening" from the Raub Hole reefs, of producing excellent bulk crushings. The return for the two months represents over £7,000, or say over \$65,000.

The *Chronicle and Directory* for China, Japan, &c., for 1897, is more voluminous than ever. The publishers have for years used every device for compressing information, but the work necessarily grows with the increase of the foreign population in Eastern Asia. The field it embraces has this year been, by particular request, widened to include the Netherland Indies, with which trade is continually growing and the communication becoming more frequent. In consequence directories for Batavia, Samarang, Sourabaya, Macassar, and Padang, with accurate descriptions, brought up to latest date, of the islands of Java, Celebes, and Sumatra, together with accounts of the chief ports, will be found following the North Borneo Directory. All the other ports have been brought up to date, both as to the descriptions, directories, and statistics. The usual valuable maps and plans which have been so appreciated in the past will be found in their places, also brought up to date and supplemented by a new plan of Tientsin showing the British, French, so-called American, and the lately ceded German concession. The extent of the foreign settlements of the northern port will, we imagine, surprise some of our readers, even those who were formerly acquainted with it. The Appendix has been also subjected to revision, and in it will be found the text of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Japan and China, signed at Peking on the 21st July, 1896. The work, which has reached its thirty-fifth year of publication, now incorporates not only the "China Directory" but the "Hongkong Directory and Hong List for the Far East."

Unusual smartness on the part of some Chinese coolies characterised a case heard at the Police Court on the 22nd January. Several men lived in a house near Hongham; but one of them decided to quit his lodgings on the night of the 20th inst. He settled up the whole of his bills before leaving and it was generally thought that he had taken his departure from the neighbourhood. During the early hours of the morning \$8.50 was stolen from a box in the house, the thief having gained entrance by pushing his hand behind the door and lifting the latch. The police at Hongham were communicated with and suspicion fell upon the erstwhile lodger. The complaining parties were instructed to keep a look-out for him and they at once came over to Hongkong and fortunately caught sight of him in the Queen's Road near No. 5 Police Station. The thief—he at once admitted the theft—was surprised at his early capture and seemed anxious to be taken to the nearest lock-up. But this procedure would not suit the convenience of his captors, who kept a tight grip of him and took him all the way back to Hongham, where they handed their prize over to the care of the police. He is now serving a sentence of four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Last Sunday evening, at the invitation of the Trustees of the Parsee Charity Fund, almost all the members of the Parsee community in this colony met at their premises in Elgin Street to offer prayers invoking the Almighty to abate the bubonic fever now raging in Bombay, and to alleviate the distress and suffering from famine that is raging almost in the whole of India. After special prayers a sum of \$1,100 was subscribed on the spot for transfer by wire to Bombay for the general expenses of the special fever hospital started at Bombay for the Parsees by the eminent Parsee doctor, Dr. K. N. Bahadurjee, under the support and auspices of the Trustees of the Parsee Charity Funds in Bombay. The sum of Rs. 2,000 was remitted by wire on Monday. A laudable zeal was also evinced by the meeting to start an Indian relief fund on the spot, but after some consideration it was deemed advisable to postpone same for any wider measures for help that it may probably be considered essential to inaugurate in the colony. At the time of the Irish Relief Fund, the Indian community, at the call of Messrs. H. N. Mody and H. M. Mehta, who were appointed members of the committee then organized by Sir John Pope Hennessy, very liberally contributed the handsome sum of \$3,000, and we are quite confident that the same spirit will be exhibited by other nationalities in this colony for the Indian Famine Relief Fund as soon as it is considered opportune to start the same in Hongkong.

Stupidity and wanton obstinacy on the part of a quartermaster named Franklin resulted in his getting a biting rebuke from the Magistrate on Tuesday and a sentence of imprisonment which will probably tame his wild spirits. Franklin was a quartermaster on the P. and O. steamer *Canton*, and while in the wheelhouse he struck one of the coloured seamen, who, he said, was asleep when he should have struck the time bell. The fourth officer remonstrated with Franklin for committing the assault and Franklin said he would serve the officer in the same manner and he thereupon carried out his threat. For these two assaults he was logged and on the entry being read over to him he behaved in an insolent manner to the captain and was consequently given into custody. At the Police Court yesterday he admitted the offence when the charge was read over to him and his Worship sent him to gaol for six weeks. The prisoner then demanded the evidence of the witnesses and while it was being taken his conduct in the dock was very unruly. The evidence threw further light on the case and the magistrate altered the sentence to one of three months' imprisonment with hard labour. In passing this sentence Commander Hastings said it was men like the prisoner who brought disgrace on the mercantile navy, and so let in foreigners, who were more amenable to discipline. The prisoner might misbehave himself in the wheelhouse, but he would not be allowed to do so in the Police Court. He was no good to a shipping company or to anybody else.

At the regular meeting of the United Mark Lodge held on Monday night, Bro. G. J. W. King was elected Worshipful Master and Bro. J. R. Grimble Treasurer.

The income of the Hongkong and South China Masonic Benevolence Fund Corporation last year was \$3,566, and the amount expended in charity was \$2,164. The balance at credit at the end of the year was \$13,357.

A coolie was sent to gaol for sixty days on the 21st January for assaulting a woman. He had a quarrel with some earth carriers at Yaumati and struck at one of them with his bamboo pole, the result being that the pole hit the woman and knocked off a part of one of her fingers.

An earring snatcher and his co-operator were taken before the Police Magistrate on the 20th January charged with stealing a pair of earrings from a woman. Each prisoner was sent to gaol for six months, and the actual thief was ordered to receive in addition a couple of whippings with the rattan.

At the regular meeting of the Victoria Preceptory held on the 19th instant Sir Knight John Bryant was installed Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year, the installation being performed by P.E.P. Sir Knight Jas. Kirkwood assisted by P.E.P. Sir Knight L. Mallory and P.E.P. Sir Knight G. C. Anderson. E.P. Sir Knight Bryant invested his officers as follows:—Constable, Sir Knight D. McDonald; Marshal, Sir Knight P. A. Simmonds; Prelate, Sir Knight J. W. Kinghorn; Treasurer, Sir Knight J. B. Sayer; Registrar, Sir Knight Jas. Lochead; Sub-Marshal, Sir Knight J. D. Goddard; Captain of the Guard, Sir Knight S. Hanisch; Almoner, Sir Knight A. D. Death; Dir. of Ceremonies, Sir Knight F. W. Hall; Guard, J. Maxwell.

"Daybreak" writes in *Sport and Gossip*:—Shanghai is about to lose a German friend that in sporting as well as in all other circles is "one of the best"—I refer to Mr. Böning, for some years a steward of our Race Club and one who worked his very hardest for the Club. He will be greatly missed at the scales next Spring, which for some meetings now has been his department on race days, and how ably he has filled the position is often referred to by jockeys weighing out and in for the different events. In saying good-bye to him I was very glad to hear that he is not leaving us for good, but that after a time in Hongkong he hopes to have a trip home and then return to Shanghai. Wishes the very best go with Mr. and Mrs. Böning, and that they may win many races in Hongkong at the coming Meeting is earnestly hoped by Daybreak.

The increase of cycling in any place brings with it a corresponding increase in street dangers, and it is necessary that special controlling regulations should be passed in the interests of the public. In Hongkong the pastime of cycling has a very large number of votaries and it is to be regretted that many of them no sooner gain a bicycle than they lose discretion. We have noticed many cyclists pedalling along the crowded parts of the Praya at a speed which is not only highly dangerous to themselves but to pedestrians as well, and we certainly think it time the Government took steps to check the notion which some cyclists possess, namely, that the streets are maintained for them and for them alone. In Saigon the Mayor has, we read, issued regulations respecting cycling in the centre of the town. Every cyclist must be provided with a bell or horn sufficiently loud to announce the approach of the bicycle, and at sunset a light must be carried. Another rule is that cycling is not allowed at all in certain public thoroughfares and cyclists must at all times travel at only a moderate speed. They are forbidden to ride on footpaths or on any place reserved exclusively for pedestrians. Contravention of this Ordinance will be dealt with in the law courts. *La Semaine Coloniale* considers that these rules infringe the liberties of the individual and hopes that they will not be enforced. It points out the utility of the bicycle and says there have been no accidents in the streets. In Hongkong, as far as we know, there have been no accidents the result of furious riding, but that is no reason why an undoubted danger should be allowed until something serious actually happens.

In lunatic asylums at home the members of the staff are rather particular about those under their charge being called "patients," which seems the proper term to use. In a scale of fees published in Saturday's *Gazette*, however, this term is ignored, and we have fees for first-class lunatics, second class lunatics, and third class lunatics. To speak of a man as "a first class lunatic" sounds rather like jeering at his misfortune.

Chan In, tailor, Pottinger Street, was on the 21st January convicted of a paltry trick. Some days ago he went on board the *Tamar* and obtained orders from two seamen for two suits of serge. The cloth was given to him to be made up, but instead of using this material he used inferior stuff. Fortunately the sailors were too sharp for him and discovered the trick. He was sent to gaol for twenty-eight days with hard labour. Mr. Looker appeared for the defence.

On the 18th January a Chinaman rushed into into No. 1 Police Station and reported that a man had been kicked to death at Wongneichung. Inspector Mann and a number of constables at once went with all haste to Wongneichung and made extensive enquiries. It was soon evident that the report was false, as nobody in the neighbourhood had heard any cries or heard of anyone being kicked to death. The police were at length taken to a house, the door of which was locked. As no one answered the call the door was burst open and a Chinaman was found lying dead on the floor. He had died from smallpox and the inmates, frightened out of their wits, had left the place and sent someone to tell the police a lying story.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A telegram has been received in Shanghai reporting the loss of the steamer *City of Canterbury*, which left Liverpool on the 9th of December for India. The vessel belonged to the City Line, running between Glasgow, Liverpool, and India, and was built in 1875, her net tonnage being 2,223 tons.

On grounds of economy, the Viceroy of Nanking is discharging extra hands engaged on board the Nanyang fleet during the war, and over 1,000 people will be paid off this month. An annual saving to the provincial treasury of nearly half-a-million dollars will be effected.—*Mercury*.

At Shanghai on the night of the 16th January two natives were rescued from drowning by the crew of the M.M. steamer *Sydney*. They were clinging to a sampan which had upset, and their cries attracted those on board the mail steamer, who threw a rope to them and hauled them on board, where they were kindly treated until they had recovered from the effects of their immersion.

At Shanghai on the evening of the 14th January a fire broke out in No. 176, Chekiang Road, at a native dwelling-house. This house was completely gutted, and the upper storeys of three adjoining buildings were also burnt out. There was no insurance on the contents of the burnt houses, but the property itself, which was owned by Mr. E. J. Hogg, was fully covered.

The *Singapore Free Press* says:—Mr. Sing Put, a young Foochow tea planter, has been spending a few weeks in Ceylon, picking up wrinkles about tea growing, picking, and caring, which he hopes to utilise for the benefit of the China tea trade, now suffering from the competition of Indian and Ceylon teas. He passed through homewards to China by the last German mail.

Cable information has been received at Shanghai from London, we learn from the *Mercury*, to the effect that Capt. R. M. Andrews of the China Merchants' S. N. Co. died on Saturday, 16th January. Capt. Andrews was one of the oldest and best known master mariners in the employ of the C. M. S. N. Co. and was a highly respected member of the China Maritime Marine. He was visiting England in connection with the building of the new vessels for the C. M. S. N. Co. and was superintending their construction. The news of his demise was received with profound regret in Shanghai and flags at the Merchants' Marine Officers' Association, shipping offices, and local steamers were half-masted out of respect to his memory.

A Smoking Concert Club has been established at Shanghai.

A reception was held on board the North German Lloyd steamer *Prins Heinrich* at Shanghai on the 21st January. The *Prins Heinrich* is the largest steamer that has ever gone up to Shanghai.

Mr. C. P. Hall, of the firm of Walsh, Hall & Co., died at his residence at Kobe on the 18th January, of smallpox. The *Kobe Chronicle* says:—The news of the sad death of Mr. C. P. Hall has been received with genuine sorrow in the community. He was only 45 years of age. Born in Shanghai, he in his young days returned to America with his parents to their home in Rhode Island, where he went to school and subsequently graduated at Harvard. His father is a partner in the firm of Walsh, Hall & Co. and is still in America. The deceased gentleman came to Japan in 1872, and during the many years which have since elapsed his invariable courtesy has surrounded him with a wide circle of friends who deeply deplore his premature death.

Although the Board of Revenue, in its efforts to raise funds during the late war with Japan, while deducting thirty per cent of the salaries of all civil, military, and naval officials of the empire, promised to discontinue it at the close of the war, it has been found, writes a native correspondent at Peking, that the straits in which the Central Government still finds itself preclude the performance of its promise in this connection. The old regulations have, however, been somewhat modified to the extent that only civil officials from the rank of prefect and Taotai upwards, and military and naval officers from the 3rd grade (Major in the army or Captain in the navy) will have to undergo a deduction of thirty per cent of their salary for 1897, because, perhaps, officials of those ranks have more opportunities of "squeezing" than those beneath them. Civil officials from sub-prefect (5th rank) downwards and military and naval officers from Captain (4th rank) in the army and Commander in the navy will, however, be exempted from having a large hole made in their already too meagre salaries. At the end of 1897 (23rd year of Kuang Hsu) if the Board of Revenue should find the exchequer in easier circumstances it again promises to abolish the whole thing in 1898.—*N. O. Daily News*.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

SHANGHAI, 22nd January.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular).—Our last "printed" Tea market advices were under date 8th instant.

Black Tea.—No business reported. Stock, 4,269 half-chests.

Green Teas.—Pingsueys.—Settlements are said to be entirely on native account.

Country Teas.—Market closed for the season. Hysons.—In the early part of the fortnight a few purchases were made at very cheap prices, but Teamen have now made arrangements to hold until after the China New Year. 775 half-chests are being shipped to Bombay on native account.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	6,176,749	7,868,507
Shanghai and Hankow	18,410,313	21,817,405
Foochow	13,749,301	14,076,078
	37,336,568	43,862,045

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	10,809,591	20,094,771
Amoy	19,226,755	11,834,331
Foochow	11,716,764	12,169,184
	49,753,110	53,128,286

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	22,940,125	27,245,745

ON SINGAPORE—
On demand 1/2 pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate 9.30
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 48.50

JOINT STOCK SHARES

HONGKONG, January 27th.—The market has continued active and a fair miscellaneous business has been put through. Rates with but very few exceptions have ruled strong and advancing and the market closes firm with a still upward tendency.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, after the little spurt reported last week, have again settled down to comparative neglect and there is but little business to report; small cash sales at 184 and for the settlements at the same rate were negotiated, but sellers have ruled the market, which closes weak with sellers at quotation. The latest London rate is 243. Nationals have remained in demand and strong at 226 1/2. Bank of China still out of the market.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Have all ruled strong and rates generally have improved. Unions have found further buyers at 235 and 237 1/2. Cantons have been enquired for at 177 1/2 without leading to business, and China Traders with a small demand have risen to 77 after sales at 75 and 76. Straits have been pretty active and a good many shares have changed hands at 226 1/2, 227, 227 1/2, and 228, the rise probably foreshadowing a good report, the time for the issue of which is about due. North Chinas and Yangtses have improved with sales in the North at Tls. 192 1/2 and Tls. 195 for the former and at 147 1/2 to 155 for the latter; both stocks close in demand at last named rates, but shares, especially Yangtses, are firmly held.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkongs seem to have steadied a little and only small sales at 370 and 372 1/2 have been effected. China Fires have been the medium of a fair amount of business at advancing rates and sales have been effected at 104 1/2, 105, 105 1/2, and 106 cash, and at 108 and 110 1/2 for March, market closing firm with buyers at 106.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have steadied a good deal and a demand at 33 to 33 1/2 remains unsatisfied. The report has been published and recommends payment of an 8 per cent. dividend for the half year, writing off the value of steamers 42,750, and carrying forward 743.76, a satisfactory result about the same as last account. Douglases have continued steady with small sales at 361 and 361 1/2, but the market is strong and any demand would lead to a substantial rise in rates. China Manilas continue neglected and unchanged at quotation, and China Mutuals could be placed in small lots. Indo-Chinas have further improved to 43 with a fair number changing hands; sales are also reported at 44 and 46 for June. Rumours that the Northern Pool had been satisfactorily renewed were current in the early part of the week, but latest telegraphic news from the North states definitely that it is not settled. The firmness of Indo-Chinas and Steamboats in Shanghai may, however, be taken as an indication that our Northern friends anticipate a satisfactory settlement of the dispute.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars appear to have returned to their erratic stage, shares having changed hands during the week at 135, 137, and 140, and later at 138 and 139. Luzons have been in demand and have risen to 54 after sales at 51 and 53; a general idea prevails that the demand is due to short sellers covering.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled entirely out of favour, sellers vainly offering to part with Ordinaries at 10.75 and Preferences at 3.25; small sales only have been effected at 10.75 and 10.50. Raubs have ruled very strong and the rate has improved to 11.75 with sales at that and earlier in the week at 10, 10 1/2, and 11. The result of the last two months' crushing now to hand is 1,806 oz. from 2,400 tons, or 15 dwt. to the ton, a very satisfactory crushing, more especially as the Raub hole was unworkable owing to flooding. Charbonnages are obtainable in small lots at 75. Jelebus have changed hands at quotation. Balmorals at 1.30. Olivers remain unchanged and neglected.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled very

firm and have still further improved their position with sales at 221, 222, 224, and 226 per cent. prem. cash; shares are enquired for, on time and for cash, but holders do not care to part and the market closes decidedly firm. Kowloon Wharves, with sales at 59, close firm with buyers. Wanchai Warehouses unchanged and neglected.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continuing in favour, sales were effected at 79 and 80 cum. div. and at 77 1/2 and 78 ex div. Hotels have found further buyers at quotation and close steady. West Points have been negotiated at 19.25 cum. and at 19 ex div. Humphreys Estates remain steady with small sales at quotation and Kowloon Lands remain unchanged and quiet.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Electrics have been in some demand and have changed hands at 36.60, 36.70, and 37. Green Islands continue firm and in request at 20. Ropes have boomed to 155 with sales. Fenwicks, after further sales at 31 1/2 and 32, close firm at latter rate. Ices are still enquired for at the enhanced value of 113 without bringing out any shares. Tramways have improved a point to 94 with sales at that and 93 1/2 and more could be placed at former rate. Ewos have been enquired for here and up North at 81 to 82, but no sales are reported.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[355, sellers
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	184 1/2 prem. =
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£3	\$26 1/2, sellers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$100, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	15s.	\$8, buyers
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	(in liquidation).
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$6, buyers
Carrichael & Co.	\$20	\$3
China Sugar	\$100	\$139, sellers
Dakin, Cruickshank & Co.	\$5	(in liquidation).
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$32, sales
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$20, sales & buyers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$7, sales & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$94, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$34, sales & buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$113, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$59, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$155, sales & sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	226 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		[407.50, sales & b.
Canton	\$50	\$177 1/2, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$106, sales & buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$77, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$372 1/2, sal. & buyers
North-China	£25	Tls. 195
Straits	\$20	\$28, sales & buyers
Union	\$25	\$237 1/2, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$160, sales
Land and Building—		[& sellers
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$77 1/2, ex. div. sales
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9 1/2, sales
Kowloon Land & B. ...	\$30	\$154, buyers
West Point Building...	\$40	\$19, ex. div. sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$54, sales & sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	75, sales
Jelebu	\$5	\$2.25, buyers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$1.30, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$5
Do. B. ...	\$24	\$24
Punjom	\$4	\$10.50, sal. & sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$3.10, sales
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$11 1/2, sales
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$67, buyers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£2 5s.
Do. Preference...	£10	£7, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$61 1/2, sales & sellers
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$33.25, sales
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$43, sales
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37 1/2	\$43 1/2
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$124, sales

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 22nd January.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—Business has been brisker during the week. Buyers who were waiting for bargains on the approach of the Chinese New Year came into the market, with the result that prices have improved in many cases. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Business has been done at 184 per cent. premium

for cash. Marine Insurance.—Unions changed hands at \$225 locally, but have since improved in Hongkong to \$232 1/2. North Chinas have been placed at Tls. 192 1/2, and are wanted. Yangtses have been in strong demand and business was done at \$146 to \$155 for cash, \$167 1/2 for the 30th March, \$150 to \$157 1/2 for 31st March, and \$160 for the 30th April. Straits are unchanged. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs were placed to Hongkong at \$370, and Chinas found buyers there at \$360. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat shares were forced off to Hongkong at 33 1/2. Indo-Chinas have changed hands at Tls. 229 1/2 cash, with one sale at Tls. 28 1/2, and business was done for 10th February at Tls. 30 1/2, and for the 27th at Tls. 31 1/2 for March, at Tls. 31 1/2, and Tls. 32, and for April at Tls. 32 1/2. There are cash buyers at Tls. 20 1/2. Douglas Steamship shares were placed to Hongkong at \$81. Sugar.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares are offering at Tls. 25 1/2, China Sugar Refining shares have been in demand, and shares were purchased, chiefly from Hongkong, at \$136 for February, \$135 for March, \$137 for April, and \$139 for May. Luzon Sugar shares are wanted at \$40, but there are no sellers. Mining.—Sheridans were placed, and are wanted, at Tls. 3. Raubs were placed to Hongkong at \$9, and subsequently were sold locally at the same price. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been sold at Tls. 175, and Shanghai Engineering shares at Tls. 48, with more offering. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 123 1/2 and Tls. 120. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares have been placed at Tls. 212 1/2, ex dividend, and are wanted. Shares in Major Brothers have been sold at Tls. 40 cash and Tls. 42 for the 27th February. International Cotton shares are offering at Tls. 90. Lao-Kung-Mow shares have been sold and are wanted at \$90. A sale of Shanghai Ice shares is reported at Tls. 140. They are now offering at Tls. 131 ex dividend. Tug and Cargo Boats.—Taku Tug and Lighter shares were placed at Tls. 108.75, and Co-operative Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 187 1/2. Miscellaneous.—In Tobacco shares, Sumatras were placed for March at Tls. 110, and are now in strong demand at Tls. 110 for cash and Langkats at Tls. 205 to Tls. 310 cash and Tls. 380 for July. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares changed hands at \$80, Hall & Holtz shares at \$33 cash and \$39 1/2 for March, and A. S. Watson & Co. shares at \$13, at which there are sellers. Central Stores shares changed hands, and are offering at \$15.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 27th January.—The volume of business transacted during the past fortnight has been much smaller than that recorded for the preceding period, but rates have continued firm and in some directions a marked increase has to be reported. Among native charterers, owing to the near approach of China New Year, there has not been much doing, but after the holidays there should be some business doing and although there is not much prospect of very high rates at present it may be hoped that a repetition of the stagnation in trade experienced last season will not occur this year. In Saigon-Hongkong business there is very little doing, one settlement only for a series of four trips at not very high rates being reported. From Saigon to Java 20 cents per picul is offered and for a suitable steamer a little better might possibly be obtained. Bangkok to this nothing has been done and there does not appear to be much enquiry. From Java and from Philippines to this also tonnage is not in demand. Japan coal freights have advanced and last settlements reported are \$2.35 per ton to Singapore and \$1.30 per ton to Hongkong. At these figures further tonnage could probably be settled. In sailing tonnage no fixtures are reported and there does not appear to be much enquiry at present.

There are four vessels disengaged in port, registering 7,053 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

John Bailey—American bark, 700 tons, Mantung to Singapore and Shanghai, private terms.
Sebastian Bach—British bark, 323 tons, Mantung to Singapore, \$2,300.
Kido Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,665 tons, Kuchinozu to Singapore, \$2.25 per ton.
Taiwan Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,483 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.25 per ton.
Bengloe—British steamer, 2,000 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.35 per ton.
Martha—German steamer, 1,560 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3 per ton.
Sulberg—German steamer, 782 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.26 per ton.
Takuang—British steamer, 2,077 tons, Kuchinozu and/or Kuchinozu to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.
Martha—German steamer, 1,560 tons, Singapore to Yokohama, \$3 per ton.

Fulkenburg—German steamer, 1,175 tons, Saigon to Singapore option Sourabaya, 12 cents or 19 cents per picul.
Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 13 cents per picul.
Ingraham—Norwegian steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 12 cents per picul.
Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 13 cents per picul.
Tailor—German steamer, 934 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 4 trips, first 2 trips 12 cents; second 2 trips 12½ cents per picul.
Doris—German steamer, 817 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama, 26 cents per picul.
Quarta—German steamer, 1,246 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$5,580 per month.
Dagmar—Norwegian steamer, monthly, 3 months, \$4,200 per month.
Michael Jensen—German steamer, 710 tons, monthly, 6/6 months, \$4,000 per month.
Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$3,100 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Myrmidon* (str.), *Formosa* (str.).
 For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Matterhorn* (str.), *Sum-bawa*, *Peru* (str.), *Belgia* (str.).
 For BREMEN.—*Prins Heinrich* (str.).
 For MARSEILLES.—*Sydney* (str.).
 For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).
 For VICTORIA.—*Braemar* (str.), *Monmouthshire* (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—*Benjamin Sewall*, *Port Adelaide* (str.), *Penobscot*.
 For AUSTRALIA.—*Changsha* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

January—

ARRIVALS.

21, *Oopaok*, British str., from Liverpool.
 21, *Devawongse*, British str., from Bangkok.
 21, *Haitan*, French str., from Pakhoi.
 21, *Singan*, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, *Thales*, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 21, *Glenfalloch*, British str., from S'pore.
 21, *Jacob Christensen*, Nor. str., from Saigon.
 22, *Independent*, German str., from Moji.
 22, *Sungkiang*, British str., from Manila.
 22, *Brindisi*, British str., from Bombay.
 22, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 22, *Morven*, British str., from Amoy.
 22, *Sullberg*, German str., from Haiphong.
 22, *Kwongsang*, British str., from Wuhu.
 22, *Ravenna*, British str., from Bombay.
 22, *Doris*, German str., from Haiphong.
 23, *Loongmoon*, German str., from Shanghai.
 23, *Haitan*, British str., from Coast Ports.
 23, *Priam*, British str., from Liverpool.
 23, *Kachidate Maru*, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 23, *Chwnshan*, British str., from Straits.
 23, *Benlawers*, British str., from Saigon.
 23, *Tamsui*, British str., from Canton.
 23, *John R. Kelley*, Amr. ship, from N. York.
 24, *Ask*, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
 24, *Borneo*, British str., from Yokohama.
 24, *Taisang*, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, *Trym*, Norw. str., from Karatsu.
 24, *Rattler*, British g-bt., from Yokohama.
 24, *Clara*, German str., from Pakhoi.
 25, *Keongwai*, British str., from Bangkok.
 25, *Singan*, British str., from Canton.
 25, *Canton*, British str., from London.
 25, *Verona*, British str., from Yokohama.
 25, *Kaiser*, German flagship, from Mirs Bay.
 25, *Arcona*, German cruiser, from a cruise.
 25, *Burik*, Russian flagship, from Nagasaki.
 25, *Ad. Korniloff*, Russian cr., from Nagasaki.
 25, *Prinzess Wilhelm*, Ger. cr., from Mirs Bay.
 25, *Sabine Rickmers*, Ger. str., from F'chow.
 26, *Haimun*, British str., from Tamsui.
 26, *Rosetta*, British str., from Shanghai.
 26, *Empress of India*, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 26, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., from Canton.
 26, *China*, German str., from Saigon.
 26, *Olympia*, Amr. flagship, from Nagasaki.
 26, *Frigga*, German str., from Shanghai.
 26, *Cheang H. Kian*, British str., from S'pore.
 26, *Firebrand*, British g-bt., from Foochow.
 27, *Kwongsang*, British str., from Canton.
 27, *Taisang*, British str., from Canton.
 27, *Loongmoon*, German str., from Canton.
 27, *Hailoong*, British str., from Tamsui.
 27, *Kihai Maru*, Japanese str., from Moji.
 January—
 21, *Tetartos*, German str., for Saigon.
 21, *Namoa*, British str., for Swatow.
 21, *Choyang*, British str., for Shanghai.

DEPARTURES.

21, *Hikoshan Maru*, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 21, *Lyeemoon*, German str., for Shanghai.
 21, *Polyphemus*, British str., for London.
 21, *Shantung*, British str., for Java.
 22, *Formosa*, British str., for Swatow.
 22, *Mathilde*, German str., for Hoihow.
 22, *Wuotan*, German str., for Saigon.
 22, *Oopaok*, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, *Singan*, British str., for Canton.
 22, *Porpoise*, British cruiser, for Canton.
 22, *Glenfalloch*, British str., for Swatow.
 22, *Hongkong*, French str., for Haiphong.
 22, *Kong Beng*, British str., for Bangkok.
 22, *Martha*, German str., for Singapore.
 22, *Taicheong*, German str., for Swatow.
 22, *Tancred*, Norw. str., for Rangoon.
 23, *Velocity*, British bark, for Shanghai.
 23, *Australian*, British str., for Australia.
 23, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., for Canton.
 23, *Haitan*, French str., for Hoihow.
 23, *Bygdo*, Norw. str., for Saigon.
 23, *Esmeralda*, British str., for Manila.
 23, *Fushun*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 23, *Suisang*, British str., for Calcutta.
 24, *Holstein*, German str., for Saigon.
 24, *Kweiyang*, British str., for Iloilo.
 24, *Loongmoon*, German str., for Canton.
 24, *Loosok*, British str., for Bangkok.
 24, *Priam*, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, *Ravenna*, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, *Tamsui*, British str., for Swatow.
 24, *Thales*, British str., for Swatow.
 24, *Kwongsang*, British str., for Canton.
 24, *Stanfield*, British bark, for Rajang.
 25, *Doris*, German str., for Iloilo.
 25, *Elsa*, German str., for Saigon.
 25, *Michael Jensen*, German str., for Kolai River, E.C.B.
 25, *Taisang*, British str., for Canton.
 26, *Singan*, British str., for Ningpo.
 26, *Haitan*, British str., for Coast Ports.
 26, *Borneo*, British str., for London.
 26, *China*, British str., for S. Francois-o.
 26, *Chwnshan*, British str., for Swatow.
 26, *Sungkiang*, British str., for Manila.
 27, *Kachidate Maru*, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 27, *Clara*, German str., for Pakhoi.
 27, *Ask*, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 27, *Canton*, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, *Devawongse*, British str., for Bangkok.
 27, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 27, *Oalo*, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 27, *Sullberg*, German str., for Kobe.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Ravenna*, steamer, for Hongkong from London.—Mr. and Mrs. Gray and infant, Miss Potts, Messrs. J. M. L. Avellos, Thurburn, Angus, McDonald and Gordon. From Penang.—Mrs. F. de Souza. From Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. D. Haskell, Messrs. Haskell, Jr., Deeme, Nang Sew Sang, Lan Pak Chuen and Wing Kin Mi. For Shanghai from London.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Murray, Messrs. E. Blake, W. Holliday, Donally and Jackson. From Brindisi.—Mr. A. P. MacEwan. From Malta.—Mr. Fibiger. From Bombay.—Mr. and Mrs. Murphie and infant. From Singapore.—Lieut. General Viscount Kawakami, Lieut. Col. Ichichi, Lieut. Col. Mourata, Major Akashi and Officer Sekya. For Yokohama from London.—Messrs. Wilson and John Unwin. From Brindisi.—Mr. Bracciolini. From Malta.—Mr. Ruggero Inglett.
 Per *Borneo*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong.—Mr. J. W. Burgoyne. From Kobe for Singapore.—Miss J. Carroll, Mrs. G. B. Easter. From Yokohama for Ismailia.—Mrs. and Miss Jarvis. From Yokohama for London, via Calcutta.—Mr. and Mrs. Lawson. From Shanghai for London, via Marseilles.—Mrs. Joy and son. From Kobe for London, via Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. G. How. From Yokohama for London.—Miss Wheeler. From Shanghai for London.—Mrs. Burgoyne and infant, Mr. J. Knox.
 Per *Verona*, str., from Yokohama for Hongkong.—Lieut. Allen, R.N., Mrs. Allen, Messrs. T. Perkins, W. Ashworth, Wong Ping Van, Kwong Man Tai. For Bombay.—Mr. Okumura. For London.—Misses Dawson, Ballard, and Yasui. From Nagasaki for Hongkong.—Messrs. G. Orr and W. Halewood.
 Per *Rosetta*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong.—Messrs. P. O. Reilly, J. D. Lamberts, S. Reynell, A. M. Marshall, and F. N. Firth. For Singapore.—Mr. Soderberia. For Brindisi.

—Mr. G. Jamieson and Misses Jamieson. For London.—Messrs. A. S. Brommer and G. Miller.
 Per *Empress of India*, str., from Vancouver, &c.—Messrs. C. G. Roundell and C. K. Roundell, Lieut. Campbell, Mr. Wong He Chong, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Epperley, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers and infant, Mr. W. Elkom, Mrs. Malter, Messrs. S. E. Whitrule, W. P. Groves, A. Maxwell, Miss Maxwell, Messrs. N. Broder and J. Glosop, Mr. and Mrs. Dutton and four children, General and Mrs. Washburn, Misses Washburn (2), Messrs. N. Melchers, N. W. Grabien, A. Naupt, Miss Soidmore, Messrs. Ho Kam Tong, F. X. Gutierrez, and Tong He King.

DEPARTED.

Per *Empress of China*, str., for Amoy.—Mrs. R. L. Richardson and infant and Mr. J. Morris. For Shanghai.—Mrs. H. Baxter and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Borner, Mr. and Mrs. Dickson and infant, Mrs. B. Adams, Messrs. A. Shewan and A. Duncan. For Yokohama.—Messrs. H. B. Darnell, K. Yamamoto, Low, and Leung Fook. For Kobe.—Mr. Lee Chik Wun. For Vancouver.—Master Wetherell, Mr. J. C. Stovell. For London.—Miss K. E. Michell. From Shanghai for New York.—Mr. R. Paterson. From Yokohama for London.—Mr. W. Spencer, Jr.
 Per *Caledonien*, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai.—Messrs. E. Manning, J. H. Howes, and Yung Wei Ku. For Yokohama.—Sisters Donatienne and Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Komor and 2 children, and Mr. A. Adad. For Shanghai from Marseilles.—Messrs. Licopolis and Bellinardi, Mr. and Mrs. Brochier and 4 children, Mrs. Mina, Mrs. Carlos and infant, Messrs. Ducario, Burton, and Alamano. For Yokohama from Singapore.—Messrs. Roza-Chita, Araki, Olibo, and Morop. From Saigon.—Mr. Joannes.

Per *Tamise*, str., from Hongkong for Saigon.—Rev. Marimond and Mr. Xuan Jan. For Singapore.—Mrs. A. M. G. Alvares, Miss M. T. Carvalho, Mr. W. T. Pollard. For Saigon from Shanghai.—Mr. Dologet. From Yokohama.—Messrs. Compagnol and de Lamerande. For Singapore from Shanghai.—Mr. Maynard. For Port Said from Yokohama.—Mr. Tallard. For Marseilles from Shanghai.—Mr. Reynard, Mr. Luizuntar, Rev. Lagarde, Messrs. Song and Austroon. From Yokohama.—Mr. Parlett, Mr. and Mrs. Renant.

Per *Suisang*, str., for Singapore.—Mr. Reid, Mrs. Ah Soo and 6 children. For Calcutta.—Mr. S. Knocker.

Per *Australian*, str., for Australian Ports.—Messrs. B. Sharp, Crawford, Mrs. Reardon and children, Mr. and Mrs. H. Lomas Smith, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Strong and child, Miss Kempthorne, and Dr. and Mrs. Begg.

Per *China*, str., for Shanghai.—Mr. J. H. Garrels, Miss Clarke, Messrs. H. Grun, B. Arsensi, and M. Berheim, Capt. J. C. Arthur. For Nagasaki.—Lieut. General Kawakami, Lt. Col. Murata, Lt. Col. Ichichi, Major Akashi, and Secretary Sekiya. For Kobe.—Mr. and Mrs. del Castillo, and Mr. Holch. For Yokohama.—Mr. R. H. Percival, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Norman, Mrs. B. C. Howard. For San Francisco.—Messrs. C. F. Mendham, S. H. Saleno, and T. Jackson.

Per *Borneo*, str., from Hongkong for Penang.—Mr. Lin Poe Tai, Mrs. Lin Kok Cheong and Miss Lin Kok Cheong. For London.—Capt. Lew Buah and Ching Peh Kwong, Lt. E. C. Rowcroft, Mrs. M. S. Northcote, Mr. and Mrs. Shelton Hooper and 2 children, Rev. and Mrs. D. Ferguson and child, Capt. Chan Chen Poy, Comdr. Chia Ho Yuen, Comdr. Tan Hsias Heng, Lieut. Lew Tiao Yung, Engr. Lai Pui Liang, Engr. Yang Leen Kup, Engr. Ho Chia Lan, Comdr. Lew Shing Au, Capt. Lin Kok Cheong, Comdr. Lin Kok Hee, Mrs. Fairhurst. From Kobe for Singapore.—Miss Julia Carroll and Mrs. G. B. Easton. From Yokohama for Ismailia.—Mrs. and Miss S. N. Jarvis. For London.—Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Lawson, Miss Wheeler. From Kobe for London, via Marseilles.—Mr. G. How. For London.—Mr. F. J. Abbott. From Shanghai for London, via Marseilles.—Mrs. Ivy and son. For London.—Mr. Burgoyne and child and Mr. J. Knox.